FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol III No 012 20 January 1987

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GORBACHEV MESSAGE ON DISARMAMENT TO 'DELHI SIX'

PM201311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS -- Follows the full text of a message sent by Mikhail Gorbachev to the leaders of six states -- Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania -- in connection with the declaration adopted by them on the occasion of the outgoing year 1986:

Mr. Raul Alfonsin, the president of Argentina
Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the prime minister of Greece
Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India
Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, the president of Mexico
Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister of Sweden
Mr. Julius Nyerere, the first president of Tanzania

Esteemed Gentlemen,

I carefully studied your declaration in which you resolutely call again for drafting without delay concrete measures to prevent an arms race in space and stop it on earth, measures leading, in the final count, to complete elimination of nuclear weapons on this planet. I was satisfied to see once again that our approaches to the basic issues of curbing the arms race, now worrying all mankind, essentially coincide.

I fully agree, first of all, it is necessary for us to preserve together the historic landmarks reached on the way to a nuclear weapon-free world at the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik and not to let the concrete outlines laid down there for nuclear disarmament to be blurred. To prevent deliverance of the world from nuclear weapons before the end of this century from remaining an unattainable dream it is important already now, without postponing things for long, to concrete precisely on the problem of elimination of nuclear weapons, and not, as you noted correctly, on the elaboration of all possible programmes based on the premises that this terrible weapon will continue, for a long time to come, to threaten this planet with death.

The Soviet Union -- and I can firmly assure you that this is so -- will continue to press resolutely for advance to be made from positions reached in Reykjavik. We do not withdraw any of the proposals we made there for a sharp reduction and subsequent elimination of all nuclear means [sredstvo] and for ensuring peaceful space above our planet.

Basing ourselves on the programme of delivering the world from the nuclear burden, put forward by us on January 15, 1986, we suggest bold, and at the same time realistic, approaches to scaling down the arms race in all its directions, be it elimination of nuclear arsenals, prevention of the creation [suzdaniye] of space armaments, prohibition of chemical weapons, or lowering the level of confrontation of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

Our sweeping proposals on all these problems are a good building material out of which a solid edifice of reliable security for all could be erected already within the next decade. Unfortuantely, however, the other side does not display, so far, a similar sense of political responsibility for the destinies of the world and shows no desire to participate together with us in such construction work. Moreover, attempts are being made to destroy even the foundation which was being laid for this building in the course of the last fifteen years.

In this connection we fully share your concern over the possibility of destruction of the entire structure of accords on strategic arms limitation, for this would have unforeseeable consequences for the whole world. At the same time I can assure you that the Soviet Union intends to oppose, as before, consistently and resolutely, its line for disarmament and establishing all-embracing security to the irresponsible policy of the present U.S. administration in this and other matters.

We understand the regret with which you received our forced decision to prolong the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions only until a first nuclear test by the U.S. in 1987. It goes without saying, of course, that if a realistic approach prevailed in Washington and the U.S. acceded to our unilateral action, the matter of nuclear disarmament could be advanced in giant strides. But this, unfortunately, has not happened so far, despite the fact that we gave the Americans whole eighteen months for reflection. At the same time, I should like to call your attention to the fact that now too, we continue to keep the door open: We shall be ready to resume to the moratorium any day or month, provided the United States takes a decision to end its nuclear explosions. This notwithstanding, we do not lose hope that the American side will heed the calls of the world community, including those expressed in your declarations, and revise its attitude to this problem.

I should like to reaffirm our principled attitude to the task of banning nuclear tests altogether. We continue regarding a complete ban on nuclear weapon tests as a first-priority measure on the way to curtailing nuclear armaments and their subsequent elimination. The USSR suggests that this question should be settled without delay. And even if we are forced to resume nuclear explosions, we will continue to come out as persistently as now for the beginning of full-scale talks on this problem, and we are ready to hold such talks in any composition and at any forum but, of course, with the participation of the U.S.

The Soviet Union, anxious not to miss any chance for spurring international efforts in this field, has already expressed its readiness to use the proposal, reaffirmed in your latest declaration, for giving assistance in control over termination of nuclear explosions. Unfortunately, a meeting, you suggested, of experts of the six countries with Soviet and American experts did not take place because of the stance taken by the United States on this matter. We continue to believe, however, such a meeting could be very useful for speeding up the drafting of a nuclear test ban treaty. In this connection I want to inform you that even if the United States fails to reconsider its negative attitude to your proposal, we shall be ready, nevertheless, to send Soviet representatives to a meeting with your experts. Taking into account all the new proposals made lately in the sphere of control, it would be possible at such a meeting to begin, already now, a joint object search for mutually acceptable solutions that could be then made the basis of a dependable mechanism for controlling a treaty on complete and universal ban of nuclear weapon tests.

In conclusion I should like to express an idea which seems to me to echo the spirit of your declaration. What was agreed upon in Reykjavik and the approach, outlined there, to the elimination of nuclear armaments can no longer be a subject of relations between the USSR and the U.S. only: The results of the Reykjavik meeting have now become a common possession of all countries and peoples. And this is quite understandable because the inter-dependence of their survival -- a reality of our nuclear-space age -- makes all states vitally interested in eliminating nuclear weapons and preventing the arms race from spreading to outer space. Such interaction of states, big and small, for the sake of preserving all mankind has become today, as never before, a vital imperative. Welcoming the tireless efforts made in this direction by the "Delhi Six", I want to assure you that the Soviet Union, for its part, is prepared to make a most active contribution to this common cause.

Respectfully Yours,
[Signed] M. Gorbavhev

NOVOSTI PAMPHLET CITES STRATEGIC ARMS DATA

PM171933 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Pamphlet Published"]

[Text] APN has published a pamphlet titled "Reykjavik, Documents and Materials," containing extracts from CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's statements to representatives of the press at Reykjavik airport on 10 October 1986 and at the 12 October Reykjavik press conference and from M.S. Gorbachev's 14 and 22 October 1986 Soviet television addresses. The pamphlet also includes extracts from the speeches by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, at the Vienna meeting of CSCE participant states on 5 November 1986 and at the 10 November 1986 Moscow press conference.

The Soviet draft directive to the USSR and U.S. foreign ministers on preparing an agreement in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and the data on the quantities of USSR and U.S. strategic offensive arms handed by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary to the U.S. president in Reykjavik are published for the first time. The pamphlet is published in English, French, German, and Spanish.

Cites 'Approximate Parity'

LD200859 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Data on the ratio of Soviet and American strategic strike weapons have been published in Moscow for the first time ever by the Military Herald of the NOVOSTI press agency. The figures were handed over to President Reagan by Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik on 12 October last year. They testify to an approximate parity between the two sides. The Soviet Union has more intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-based ballistic missiles while the United States has more warheads and a much greater number of heavy bombers capable of delivering nuclear arms.

DELEGATION BELIEVES GENEVA TALKS 'TURNING POINT'

LD171835 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Report by station correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev]

[Excerpt] The latest round of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons has started in Geneva. Our correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev reports:

[Dmitriyev] The Soviet side submitted all-embracing proposals on November last year during the previous session. These follow from the large-scale disarmament program submitted by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbavhev and rely on the positive virtues of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik. These proposals are now on the negotiating table. The belief of the Soviet delegation, headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Mikhavlovich Vorontsov, is that the round which has just begun should be a turning point in resolving the set tasks. At a press conference, held at the Soviet Mission, representatives of the USSR have stressed the need for a very rapid achievement of accords and for work to be carried out in a constructive spirit. They expressed the hope that the U.S. delegation would take the same approach. [passage omitted]

Israelyan Sees 'Positive Changes'

PM181853 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No. 52, 30 Dec 86 pp 18-19

[Article by Viktor Israelyan, Chief Soviet Delegate at the Geneva Disarmament Conference: "Achievements and Setbacks"]

[Text] The Council Hall is one of the best known rooms in the Geneva Palace of Nations. Its walls are decorated with impressive frescos by the Spanish painter Jose Maria Sert: Damning everything, the vanquished are burying their dead. But neither are the victors happy. A huge sarcophagus against the sinister background of ruins -- this is the price of their victory. Two canon muzzles, like the gaping mouths of giant dragons, symbolize the Moloch of war, demanding more and more sacrifices.

For more than a quarter of a century this hall has been the scene of fierce diplomatic battles on the most pressing problem of problem of mankind -- it is here that the disarmament conference holds its sessions. Countless speeches have been made here over the years and mountains of documents drafted. Sert's frescos have already aged and become covered with a network of cracks, but still there are no tangible results.

True, the conference hall has known better times. The drafting of a number of crucial multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament was concluded here, for instance, the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which has now been signed by more than 130 countries. Drawn up some twenty years ago, this treaty has justified itself and serves as an obstacle to the proliferation of these barbarous weapons. Or take the convention on the prohibition of bacteriological weapons. Indeed, this was the first real measure in the history of mankind to abolish this type of weapon of mass annihilation.

The convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques was adopted about ten years ago. The conference came up with its latest "product" in April 1981 -- the convention on the banning or limiting of the use of certain conventional weapons which could be regarded as excessively injurious or having indiscriminate effects.

But since then this forum, like all others on questions of arms limitation, has been marking time. Meanwhile, the arms race has not only created mountains of nuclear and other weapons but is threatening to spread to outer space, ineluctably increasing the danger of a universal nuclear catastrophe.

Does this mean that the past ten years have produced nothing new? Not at all.

First of all, the conference has become more representative. Since 1979, all five nuclear powers have been taking part in its work, and the representation of socialist, non-aligned, neutral, and Western countries has been broadened. Today the Geneva forum reflects the alignment of political forces in the world arena more accurately and can be regarded as a prototype of a future world conference on disarmament. It has the mandate to conduct talks with the aim of drafting agreements in the field of arms limitation, and includes virtually all the militarily important countries. In other words, the conference is a unique body which can and must make a substantial contribution to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Its agenda has grown considerably in recent years: from the prohibition of nuclear tests to preventing an arms race in outer space, from the prevention of nuclear war to the prohibition of radiological weapons.

The public often fails to associate the conference's work with talks on anything other than banning chemical weapons. Indeed, tangible progress has certainly been achieved in this direction. But it is also true that the vast majority of states taking part in the conference are paying the greatest attention to and showing growing interest in the problems of limiting the nuclear arms race.

This year the conference was in session for seven months and as in the past an atmosphere of complex and diverse diplomatic confrontation prevailed.

Whatever concrete issues were discussed, in the end everything came down to the conclusion that real progress in solving them can be achieved only by resolutely abandoning the old stereotypes in the field of security and disarmament, which have become firmly established in the minds of politicians and diplomats, as well as in the practice of the conference itself.

The series of major Soviet proposals and measures initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev's January 15 statement injected new life into the routine course of the conference. This was expressed not only in the speeches made by most delegations but also in their concrete proposals concerning various items on the agenda.

The work of the session highlighted the U.S. Administration's archaic approach to problems of security, an approach based on military-technological presumptuousness and disregard for the lawful interests of other countries. There is a greater understanding that the present policy of the United States and NATO does not offer a reasonable model for ensuring international security.

Of course, it is still too early to say that the old mentality is surrendering its position without a fight. And the speeches from many delegations reflected a profound understanding of the danger of baleful consequences for mankind with which attempts to resolve security matters by military means are fraught, understanding of the need for the earliest complete elimination of nuclear arms, and preventing the appearance of arms in outer space. Even many allies of the United States did not support the American thesis on the "peacemaking" role of nuclear arms and the benefits of deploying SDI.

Most participants in the conference spoke highly of the Soviet plan to create a nuclear-free world by the end of this century. Many states, nonaligned ones in particular, have become more active in matters relating to nuclear disarmament. Argentina, Pakistan and China have submitted their own documents on the issue, and their tenor is the same as that of the Soviet proposal.

Discussions on nuclear disarmament at plenary and informal meetings have become livelier. For the first time in many years it has been possible to adopt a decision to conduct a detailed discussion of all aspects of this problem at special meetings of the conference. But the negative stand taken by the United States and its allies have so far precluded the achievement of anything else.

The question of banning nuclear tests now sounds totally different at the conference. Here, as was stated by many delegations, lies the watershed between the old and the new thinking. This, indeed, was the key issue at the last session.

Like the U.S.S.R., most countries view the ban on tests as a genuine path to restraining the nuclear arms race, and for this reason vigorously insist on the speediest conclusion of a treaty to this effect. When in August the Soviet moratorium was extended for the fourth time this deeply impressed even those who are usually short of kind words about us. When Washington's arguments in defence of testing became completely untenable, the United States was forced to resort to an extreme measure. Using the rule of consensus at the conference, the United States, on its own, blocked the commencement of talks, despite the flexibility displayed by almost all the other states represented, in respect of the mandate of its special auxiliary body on the prohibition of nuclear tests.

The burgeoning of the new appraoch to questions of ensuring security, as well as to the talks, also manifested itself in the large number of concrete proposals put forward by various countries on the main questions under discussion at the conference. The session of our forum showed that many of these proposals merit discussion. This is true not only of the proposals made by the U.S.S.R., its allies or non-aligned countries, but also of proposals made by Western states as, for instance, the French proposal on preventing an arms race in outer space and the Australian proposal on the protection of satellites and ground stations.

The broad discussion also brought to the surface latent differences in the positions of Western countries. Many speeches by their representatives were in contrast with American ones. To specify: the mandate of the special auxiliary body of the conference on the question of prohibiting nuclear tests, proposed by Australia in February 1986, was blocked by the American delegation. The U.S. position was seriously criticized by the Dutch delegation. In a departure from past practice, the United States even had to invoke "Atlantic solidarity." But even this could not prevent public statements by Western countires in favour of political means of ensuring national and international security and of preserving treaties, in particular the ABM Treaty, and other agreements in the field of disarmament.

The mood in favour of achieving practical accords manifested itself most tangibly at the conference during the talks on banning chemical weapons. I should like to dwell on this in greater detail. The strategic aim of chemical disarmament is outlined in the January 15 statement as the total elimination of this type of weapon of mass annihilation and even the industrial base for its manufacture. While acknowledging all the difficulties of attaining this objective, the U.S.S.R. believes it quite realistic to achieve this goal before the end of the century, and also defines those directions of the talks along which progress is already possible at the present stage.

The fundamental theses of the January 15 statement were spelled out in concrete detail in the Soviet proposals at the conference. In submitting them, the Soviet Union intended first of all to achieve a resolute advance towards agreement on one of the key sections of the convention concerning the industrial base for the manufacture of chemical weapons. Intensive and businesslike talks resulted in the attainment and formal approval of principled accords in respect of the future convention's provisions concerning the time framework for the liquidation of installations for the production of chemical weapons, the declaration of their liquidation, the main obligations of states to stop the production of chemical weapons, measures to ensure the decommissioning and liquidation of these installations, as well as strict verification measures, including systematic on-site international inspections. This signifies major progress not only in the work of the conference in 1986 but also a major landmark in the whole process of preparing the convention.

There has also been advance in reaching agreement on important provisions concerning both a whole number of the main commitments of states to liquidate chemical weapons and the relevant technical and verification procedures.

Noticeable results were also achieved as regards the future convention's section on permitted activities. It concerns the inadmissibility of the use of the chemical industry for developing and producing chemical weapons, regardless of whether this concerns state or private enterprises, or transnational corporations.

The Soviet proposals open the way for the signing of the convention as early as 1987. But this requires a display of political will, as well as interest by the other participants in the talks.

For many years the opponents of disarmament have been trying to explain the absence of progress at arms limitation talks by the impossibily of reaching agreement on questions of verification because of the "rigid" Soviet position. The new Soviet proposals on these issues have wrecked the system of such "arguments." They have shown that the Soviet Union attaches prime importance to the working out of effective measures to verify compliance with the projected agreements.

The obstructionism of the opponents of disarmament has become still more obvious in these conditions and they are now feverishly searching for other pretexts to justify their refusal to reach positive results at the talks including those at the conference.

It is impossible to achieve disarmament acting alone. The problem of arms limitation and disarmament is common to us all. And this also implies common concern and common responsibility. When working out its proposals, the Soviet Union studies and takes into account the viewpoints and initiatives of other governments, of public and political movements and makes a special point of ensuring equal security for all at every stage of the implementation of these proposals.

"The Soviet Union regards its participation in the disarmament conference with a great sense of responsibility dictated by its conviction that disarmament is the trunk road leading to the assertion of a new, just international order, to the creation of a safe world," Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in his message to the conference in February 1986.

The positive changes in the work of the conference in the outgoing year should be consolidated and developed. The marking of time should at long last be replaced by vigorous and productive action.

'TOP PRIORITY' PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS NUCLEAR ISSUES

LD171641 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 17 Jan 87

["Top Priority" program with Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of the Moscow-based Institute for United States of America and Canada Studies; introduced by Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Excerpts] [Kuznetsov] A year ago, on January 15, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev made a statement outlining a Soviet plan for a nonnuclear world by the year 2000. In fact I think it's not only a plan, it's a program of action to guide our foreign policy in the years to come. So we want a nuclear world [as heard] and, naturally, not only for ourselves, that would be impossible; it is our principal line. How realistic is it?

[Bogdanov] Yes, it's a very good question because now you hear from practically any political quarter some different shades of opinions about nonnuclear world, beginning from absolute no it's impossible, coming to some middle way, you know, position and to some too high expectations, you know. [passage omitted]

[Bogdanov] Just have a look at some offices, I wouldn't mention, I wouldn't like to mention them. But just look at some offices, at some people. They were making, if you like, money on that; they were living on nuclear factors. In what sense? Because first of all they were making a nuclear strategy beginning from 1945. They were making different weapons systems, they were, after all their importance in their own society was defined by the nuclear factor. [as heard] If you deprive them of nuclear weapons tomorrow they will be good for nothing. You know, they defend themselves. You may say that it's a minor factor. No, Pavel, I believe it's a very, very major factor, psychological factor. But let me come back to our program. I like very much your definition. It's really a program. It's not just a slogan, it's not just what we call wishful thinking. If you -- I believe that our American counterparts, our American, you know, friends, colleagues they are no doubt also for a nonnuclear world. The American President has stated many times himself that that is his goal.

What is the difference? The difference is that you have a program on the table, very realistic program, stage by stage. Why by stage? Because of those difficulties -- psychological, security worries and all that, you know. That's why we have divided that period of 15 years into three stages, to make it really digestible, if you like, digestible.

Now let me come back to Reykjavik. If you like, in a sense, we have already tried our program in very, in a very serious circumstance, and I dare say to some extent, to a very major circumstance, and I dare to say to some extent, to a very major extent, they have succeeded. They have succeeded; they have come to an agreement on very major part of the nonnuclear world confidence, if you like.

[Kuznetsov] Yes, like deep cuts in nuclear weapons, elimination, the subsequent elimination of them in the next decade.

[Bogdanov] Only but for, just because of SDI, we could not move ahead because the American side was so eager to keep that in their hands, in their pockets that we couldn't go ahead. So my last word on that is it's very realistic and it is very much alive and it is very much on the table.

[Kuznetsov] [passage omitted] We have over 50,000, perhaps even more, nuclear arms of all kinds and I don't think this amount is a deterrent. I mean it's overkill, it's playing with suicide and it's about time we started to reduce and perhaps this, this is obvious to very many politicians round the world. [passage omitted]

[Plekhanov] You see there are two approaches to nuclear weapons. One approach is that they are a very special kind of weapon in the sense that you can't really fight and win a war with them like you could do with weapons which existed before nuclear weapons came into being. That's a traditional military approach according to which the appearance of nuclear weapons really hasn't changed anything in a major way. The other approach is that, well you know, they are a very special kind of weapon in the sense that you can only use them, or threaten to use them to deter a nuclear attack on you. In other words, nuclear weapons are a means of suicide, of mutual suicide, and the danger of mutual suicide is what prevents each side from attacking the other. Now, if, if that is the only, ah, if that, that is the only way you can use nuclear weapons for suicide then it is logical to assume that you can have a very minimal amount of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Until there is a real change in the thinking of the strategists in Washington, military or civilian, I don't think that we will be able to achieve real reductions, much less nuclear disarmament with the United States. It really requires and I don't know what it will take them to change their view, to finally come to grips with reality and say that well, you know, if they're ever used it's curtains for everybody.

[Kuznetsov] I may be wrong, but I personally have the impression that our proposals are always described in Washington, the White House, as even excessive and therefore unrealistic, like Gorbachev's, Mikhail Gorbachev's plan for a nonnuclear world, or as insufficient. As a result the ball seems to be always in our court. Is (?such) White House tactics a trick or perhaps our proposals are such that they don't take into account the legitimate security concerns of the other side?

[Bogdanov] My impression is that this administration, at least some people in this administration, they're using very dirty tricks. I'm sorry to say that. They are, you know, leaning on, may I say so, on uninformed public opinion. You still hear that song about verification. You still hear some, you know, tunes on conventional Soviet superiority. You still hear something like that. But at the same time this administration is very well informed that we have suggested to them at different forums, including Stockholm, some very efficient ways of verification, including on-site inspections, including international inspections, and of course national means of verification. If you are at the American end and you hear all that you may come to the conclusion that the Soviet Union is still on the same level as it was before. They just hide from their own people, from their own public opinion, that there is an immense step forward from the Soviet Union which takes into account all Western, you know, worries about, about, legitimate worries about verification. That problem is no more on the [word indistinct].

[Kuznetsov] At least those are worries that we know about. Every time there is some new worry coming up, you know.

[Bogdanov] And you know what happens, what happens. For instance now America, the President, sent the message, sent a signal to the Senate that he would like two threshold treaties to be ratified; provided, provided the Soviet Union agrees to some additional measures of verification. And mind you they don't mention from the White House side what kind of measures they mean. I read it like that. Suppose, suppose the Congress will ratify then they will put to the Soviet Union such measures that will be from the very beginning not acceptable to us because it would not be, you know, verification business, it would be a spying business, something like that. So maybe I'm pessimistic, I'm very sorry. Maybe Sergey is more optimistic, but I believe that these people are just not able to think in cooperative terms. They're rather busy with building up obstacles after obstacles on the very difficult way of disarmament.

[Kuznetsov] My question to you Sergey. Why don't they want to put to test our sincerity, like there's been a lot of talk about verification, why not opening up laboratories to check whether we have a similar research effort in, in space defenses, so on and so forth? Why don't they put it to test our sincerity, to test? It's easy to check whether we're cheating or not. Are they afraid that we may be serious after all?

[Plekhanov] Yes, of course. They don't want to test our sincerity because they know that we are sincere. Ah, you test the other side's sincerity, (?then) OK let's, let's sign an agreement and the other side says OK let's do it. And then you have to sign an agreement and in fact this is exactly or very much like what happened at Reykjavik, when I think President Reagan went beyond his own expectations, down the road of agreement, and had to stop at the very last moment, when he...

[Kuznetsov interrupts] Did he expect to know or what? Did he expect to know?

[Plekhanov] You see, I think, I think he didn't expect the amount of concessions on our side and the amount of active willingness to reach an agreement, to find a common ground.

He didn't really expect that. He thought that well, you know, it could be just talks about something, or probably some limited agreement and then when he sat down at the table with Mikhail Gorbachev he saw that, my goodness, there's a real possibility of a major agreement on the reduction of nuclear weapons and then the whole crowd around him starting getting scared, and what's, what's going on, are we really moving in that direction in which we do not want to move? [passage omitted]

[Kuznetsov] My final question, as time is running out on us. There are several concepts of a nonnuclear world. We know about American concept, President Reagan's concept of a nonnuclear world which boils down to the phasing out of nuclear weapons through space defenses. And there is a Soviet concept, a nonnuclear world is at the same time a world with a nonmilitarized space. Now we have these two contradictory, opposing concepts. Do you see any room, for, for compromise, or are they incompatible head on?

[Bogdanov] Yes, I see room for compromise based on common sense. That's my point.

[Kuznetsov] Common sense, what do you mean by common sense? Perhaps, you, Sergey?

[Plekhanov] Well, I think if the other side I think if the other side -- common sense for the United States to build space defenses, I mean for President Reagan. [as heard]

[Kuznetsov] Our common sense tells us...

[Plekhanov interrupts] Pavel, it's nobody's common sense to build space defenses, that's why I used that as common sense, as human common sense.

[Kuznetsov] Oh, I see.

[Plekhanov] Yes. There must be some kind of a consensus between both sides and if there is a lack of consensus at this point I think both sides should behave in such a manner that we respect each other's differences, like it was done at Reykjavik. If President Reagan believes in SDI so much, OK he can continue the research program, but please don't violate the ABM treaty because that will impinge on our interests. So if there is that give and take -- and also let's see what happens within the next 10 or 15 years. If there is a willingness to grant that the other side, to give the benefit of the doubt to the other side to some extent, at the same time adherence to the existing arms control treaties. I think that's the kind of balance that could, that we could live with for a while, before things become clear. But I'm convinced that time will show that the SDI is a great mistake, that's a very dangerous thing. But let the facts come out, let the people think and make judgments.

[Kuznetsov] Thank you very much. Our time is up. Thanks again for coming to our studio and sharing your views on Top Priority. I'm Pavel Kuznetsov, your host, signing off till next week at the same time and on the same wavelength. Goodbye.

BOGACHEV: U.S. ARMS POLICY 'OBSTRUCTIONIST'

LD161657 Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

It has long since become commonplace in Washington that the U.S. defence secretary comes out in mid January every year with "new information about the increased Soviet military menace."

The matter is that precisely at this period the discussion of the U.S. military budget starts in the Congress, and the Pentagon, by tradition, deems it timely to present the capitol with another "sensation" about the "vulnerability of the United States". The aim of these efforts, which are easy to see through, is to get congressional approval for the appropriations asked for the U.S. preparation for war.

U.S. congressmen are no longer frightened with the Pentagon's January "sensations", so the head of the U.S. Department of Defence Caspar Weinberger this time merely repeated his last year's assertions about the deployment of "new" SS-25 missiles in the Soviet Union.

As is known, the Soviet RS-12M intercontinental ballistic missile, which is described as the SS-25 missile in the West, is a modernised version of the RS-12 missile that existed earlier. The Soviet side had earlier presented concrete facts showing that the characteristics of the modernised missile are fully in keeping with the provisions of the SALT II treaty. In view of the huge importance of the matter for humanity, the need to preserve a basic curb on the strategic arms race, the Soviet Union so far keeps from outstepping the limits of the SALT I and SALT II treaties.

The total number of the Soviet Union's strategic delivery vehicles was 2,504 units when the SALT II treaty was signed. It has not increased by a single unit since then.

When deploying missiles of a single new class (SS-24), which is allowed under the SALT II treaty, the Soviet Union phased out a corresponding number of old missiles.

Meanwhile the United States adopted late last year new measures to remove the remaining barriers to the buildup of its strategic arms. Washington, specifically, ostentatiously outstepped the total limit of 1,320 units of launchers of MIRVED strategic missiles, and heavy bombers with cruise missiles, set by the SALT II treaty. B-52 aircraft with cruise missiles and MX intercontinental MIRVED ballistic missiles were recently deployed at U.S. bases over and above the limit. In violation of the SALT II treaty the United States is developing two absolutely new classes of intercontinental ballistic missiles (MX and Midgetman). The United States stance on strategic arms limitation has become even more obstructionist and arrogant as compared with January last. While proclaiming its aim of making nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete" Washington actually seeks to spread the arms race to space and spiral it on earth.

TASS CITES U.S. TRIDENT MISSILE TEST LAUNCH

LD152214 Moscow TASS in English 2141 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] New York January 15 TASS -- A Trident-2 intercontinental ballistic missile meant for U.S. and British submarines was launched on the first test flight in the United States today.

A Pentagon spokesman said that the missile capable of carrying ten independently targetable nuclear warheads was launched from the Cape Canaveral test site in Florida and reached a target in the Atlantic Ocean.

Security was tight around the launch area as members of anti-war organizations hold actions of protest against the tests of new first strike nuclear missile weapons. Last Wednesday a group of anti-nuclear protesters launched several air-baloons with metallic coating to cause disturbances in radar systems. This morning the police arrested nine protesters. Altogether 55 protesters were arrested in the past week.

Moscow TV on Launch

LD170438 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jan 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The test of a Trident missile has taken place at Cape Canaveral.

[Begin recording; video shows launch and flight of missile; brief clips of U.S. military officer apparently being interviewed, submarine under way on surface, underwater explosion, submarine launch of missile; then commentator Aleksandr Serikov in studio addressing camera] [Serikov] In the wake of this missile another 19 will zoom into the sky in just the same way. The Pentagon is planning a series of tests here of the Trident, which is capable of carrying from 10 to 15 nuclear warheads, each one possessing the destructive power of half a million metric tons of TNT. The Pentagon strategists are pleased with the launch. Now they are planning a series of underwater tests of the missile; these tests are already being publicized. One cannot but be struck by the fact the United States has begun these nuclear missile tests on the anniversary of the Soviet statement containing an appeal for the reduction and subsequent scrapping of nuclear weapons. What one sees is a wild outbreak of militarism accompanied by a no less wild outbreak of anti-Sovietism. The following picture was shown on U.S. television. [video shows map with European countries marked in green, USSR marked in red with missile symbols placed on it; graphics shows five submarine symbols in Atlantic and the trajectories of their missiles to their Soviet targets] These are American submarines armed with Trident, preventing a supposed strike by Moscow to encroach on Western freedom and democracy. The Washington militarists are apparently very keen to use such provocative ruses to imbue Americans with hatred for us and our country and to justify growing military spending. [video shows peace demonstrators] But there are a quite a number of people in America like these who are protesting against the Trident tests and realize that disarmament has to be fought for. [end recording]

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD190845 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 18 Jan 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Yuriy Nikolayevich Bandura, deputy chief editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI; Viktor Aleksandrovich Tsoppi, member of the editorial board of NOVOYE VREMYA; Igor Pavlovich Charikov, All-Union Radio commentator on foreign politics]

[Text] [Charikov] Hello, esteemed comrades. The date 15 January 1986 has already entered the chronicle of the 20th century as an important, significant, and memorable date. On that day, on behalf of the Soviet Union, one of the leading world powers, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, made a statement which contained a most important foreign policy action, an action unprecedented in its scale, in its scope of problems and issues, and in the specificity of every proposed step: a program for the total elimination of nuclear weapons throughtout the world. The 20th century has given mankind the energy of the atom, but this energy, as became apparent 6 August 1945, can be used not for creation, but destruction, and now, with the existence of huge stocks of nuclear weapons, self-destruction as well. Prompted by this peril the Soviet Union appealed to the other states in possession of such weapons and to the people of all countries to support its wide-scale program to eliminate all types of such weapons stage by stage.

This program is the logical continuation, development, the culminationn if you like, of our foreign policy, the aim of which is to avoid an armed confrontation between the two social-economic systems and to avoid the destruction of civilization. This program was coordinated -- and it could not have been otherwise -- with the interests of our allies in the countries of the socialist community. A year has passed since the memorable day when Mikhail Sergeyevich delivered this statement on Soviet television. Quite a few events of varying significance have taken place in international life, as well as quite a few events with a high degree of significance. First of all is the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik. Not one of these events has overshadowed 15 January; on the contrary, they have confirmed the urgency, the weight, the constructiveness, the breadth, and the mutually acceptable nature of the set of proposals contained in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement. Indeed, great things are best seen from a distance, and although this distance is only 1 year, what was said in the seven points of the Soviet program has acquired even greater significance.

What reaction did this statement evoke in the United States of America? On the evidence of both the U.S. press and our journalist colleagues working in the United States, nobody in the U.S. administration expected such a bold, decisive, and constructive step. They simply were not ready for this. They were not ready, generally speaking, because the United States' foreign policy concept is aimed at quite different tasks; it is aimed not at disarmament, but at the build-up and upgrading of arms; not at organizing peaceful mutual relations, but at stirring up local conflicts; and, in the final analysis, at achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union. This is why attempts were undertake from the very start to fence off the new Soviet initiative from ordinary Americans, that is, to hush it up somehow, to refrain from replying to it, and, as far as possible, to distort its contents. The administration is unable to juxtapose anything to it. In the 6 years -- it's already the 7th year now -- in the 6 years the Reagan Administration has been in power, it has not come out with one sufficiently practical and constructive and sufficiently radical initiative aimed at settling the situation in the world.

The only thing the administration has engendered over these years is the Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called Star Wars program, which has become the obstacle, as we know, on the path of the realization of the program of the state-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons set forth in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement. As the latest facts show, the administration adheres to its former concepts and holds the implementation of the Strategic Defense Initiative as its main task. In this context, I would like to quote one American politician, William Fulbright. In his book THE ARROGANCE OF POWER he writes: At the moment man is living for the first time in conditions where his existence is in peril. Other forms of life were imperriled or destroyed by changes in their natural environment. Man is threatened by a change in his environment; but he himself has engendered this threat, having created nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Our responsibilities for killing have become limitless, which creats a qualitatively new situation, and if we want to survive, we have to fundamentally change our attitude to opinions and advice, and their implementation, and to human and international relations in general. I remind you this was said by Fulbright exactly 20 years ago in 1967 in a book published in New York. Even if present politicians, those who are in the White House now, are familiar with it, I fear very much that they, on the whole, have not heeded the opinion of an adequately experienced politician.

[Tsoppi] Of course. What is happening in the world at the moment confirms Fulbright's correctness and the view of things that the world is divided by economic interests, various social systems, various ideas and aspirations, various standards of living and so on -- this world is nevertheless whole; it is a world in which everything is interconnected and interdependent. This is precisely why today one cannot think in the old ways, especially politicians, especially people vested with the authority of the state and a huge responsibility to their own people as well as all mankind. I think it is this feeling of responsibility that dictated the statement of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 15 January last year. Of course, the world has changed in the past year. It has changed, in my opinion, for the better and precisely as a result of the stance taken by our country a year ago, and as a result of all the subsequent actions by our party and state, actions which have to an enormous extent substantiated the tasks of antiwar activity posed in the 15 January statement.

A year ago we put forward a daring model of a new world -- a world without nuclear weapons, and so, without nuclear war. This gave rise to quite evident perplexity in many people -- I would even say, a sort of bafflement -- and prompted a conditioned reflex which has been instilled in human consciousness by decades of tense political confrontation. This confrontation threatens to reach the point of universal man-to-man fighting, with a deadly outcome for the whole universe. Many people said then, being at the mercy of this fear, many people said: Your program is too good to become a reality. Without wasting any superfluous words -- far more were wasted earlier than need have been -- our country put on the negotiating table specific and practical proposals, proposals which, whatever else may have been said, were fully acceptable to the United States as well. What I have in mind is the proposals on strategic weapons, on medium-range missiles, and on issues of verifying [kontrol] the cessation of nuclear tests and the nonmilitarization of space. Let us recall no matter how mighty and invulnerable, it would seem, is Washington's immunity to the effect of common sense, even the U.S. President, confronted by our flexibility, good will, and quite well-thought and wise pliability, did not resist and comprehended -- unexpectedly, by the way, for many of his admirers and adversaries -- that the Soviet proposals could be accepted.

The program for a safe, nuclear-free world did not begin to be translated into purposeful actions only because its path was blocked by the Star Wars program. These are incompatible, mutually exclusive, and mutually severing concepts of the future of mankind. In compliance to what logic can one agree to the fact, having destroyed all lethal weapons on earth, hanging a yet more dangerous means of destroying the human race above the earth? After all, in essence the president, having rejected the plan for the nonmilitarization of space, confirmed he is both the hostage and the agent of the interests of the military-industrial complex, which takes on, so to speak, the contract of ensuring the United States' military superiority, whatever it costs mankind, whatever it costs mankind and howsoever it imperils it.

[Bandura] Evaluating the past year since the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, one comes to feel that the potential of the aspirations for good will in the world proved to be so powerful that our statement, announced from Moscow, aroused enormous forces which are being channelled into specific initiatives, not only on the part of the Soviet Union, and I would even say, not only on the part of the socialist community. For example, I would like to cite such globally known documents announced last year -- which were powerfully, widely announced throughout the world -- as the Harare appeal. I think one could say a lot about this, but in it I can detect the desire by the greater, the overwhelming majority of the human race to secure peace, to secure it on the wave of enterprising policy which the Soviet Union is conducting.

[Tsoppi] Yes, the Harare appeal it is a very representative document.

[Bandura] As is known, taking part at Harare were the heads of states and governments of nonaligned states representing a most enormous part of the population of the globe, and the thoughts and currents which were laid down in this document, its appeals and concepts, are in accord with the foreign policy aims of the Soviet Union, and are in accord with the program proposed to the world on 15 January last year.

One gains from this the picture of a changing world, the picture of a world where new thinking and a new political philosophy are starting to become a reality, embracing the overwhelming, if not the absolute majority of humanity. Manifestations of this new philosophy, new political thinking which is brought about by the requirements of the missile and space age are evident everywhere. One of the latest of these, one of the most important and which attracts the greatest attention worldwide, was the announcement of the cease-fire starting at midnight on 15 January in Afghanistan, commencing a process capable of leading to nationwide reconciliation in Afghanistan.

[Tsoppi] You know, Yuriy Nikolayevich, I think one has to search for and find -- and it is becoming increasingly easy these days -- tangible symptoms of the new thinking among our political opponents in the West. For example I would like to cite the following fact. Recently, Felipe Gonzalez, the head of the Spanish Government, was asked what role Western Europe was able to play in a conflict between the East and the West. Having made the proviso that of course Europe and the United States are not only in the same alliance but also constitute an integrated cultural world, he stated all the same, truthfully speaking, there cannot be complete similarity -- this is just impossible from the point of view of political logic -- between European plans and the plans of the United States. Even in such spheres as security and defense, Europe should have its own position. Furthermore, in the view of Gonzalez, the West Europeans cannot build their strategy on the permanent basis of a fait accompli such as the American position may become. I think this is a manifestation of great political wisdom, and Felipe Gonzalez is not alone.

[Charikov] You know, Viktor Aleksandrovich, since you have been citing the comments of West European politicians, I would like to highlight the following issue here. Western Europe is currently confused in many ways, I would even say frightened and, is being sobered up, if you like, even if that sounds paradoxical, by the complete inconsistency in the foreign policy of the present administration of the United States and by whether or not such a thing actually exists at all. After all, recently and with increasing frequency, even in Washington itself, it is being said in Washington political circles that since 1980 there simply has been no foreign policy as such, in the classical sense, during the Reagan Administration. There has, in fact, been a certain series of separate acts, a series of various comments by individual politicians at one moment or other, or in one specific political situation or another. For this reason, the Western allies of the United States, in the NATO bloc in the first instance, are by and large unable to trace any logic and are unable to predict it. In what way are they then able to support this policy or follow its course? They are simply forced either to support or decline or abstain from supporting this or that specific action.

[Tsoppi] Sometimes they occupy a position which looks strange even against the backdrop of the United States' position. For example, in Reykjavik, argeement had practically been reached on the removal from Europe of medium-range missiles. Then suddenly, in Western Europe -- and even in the first instance in France, on whose territory these missiles are not positioned [raspolagatsya] and which has enough of its own missiles -- suddenly there was a wave of outrage at such an accord. Why? How is this possible? For example, French Defense Minister Andre Giraud was simply in a panic. He said: Is it possible to imagine Western Europe left to rely solely on the U.S. strategic weapons which would be kept only on the territory of the United States? The same position was adopted by the French foreign minister and by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who said with regard to the zero option -- and I will remind you that the zero option which was constantly being put forward by the United States was at that time very enthusiastically received in Western Europe...

[Charikov interrupting] Viktor Aleksandrovich, this was the only initiative of the Reagan Administration. When I was speaking about its political activity I forgot to mention this.

[Tsoppi] Yes, well, so when this initiative was put forward by the United States, everyone in France applauded. President Mitterrand said, yes, let the Soviet SS-20 and the U.S. Pershings disappear from the center of Europe. Now it all proves to be the other way around, and, moreover, in her new military program France asserts she in absolutely no way wants to include her policy in the policy of disarmment, in a policy which would lead to ridding the whole of the European continent of nuclear weapons.

[Bandura] You know, here is the impression I am forming of the actions by the West in recent times. It seems to me that the effectiveness, the force, the attractiveness, reasonableness, and comprehensibility of the initiatives of the Soviet Union are exerting such a powerful influence on the frame of mind of ordinary inhabitants of the West, that they are starting to change their thinking and ideas about the Soviet Union and about the socialist system as a whole, but, neither the United States nor a part of the circles in the West which are closely linked with the United States wants to change its mind. At the same time, they don't want to permit their fellow citizens to deviate from the course which has been under construction for decades with respect to the Soviet Union and with respect to mutual relations between the East and West. In this situation, sometimes leaders of the Western world, many leaders -- far from all -- but many start and are obliged to acknowledge the effectiveness of Soviet foreign policy, of the directions laid down in the 15 January statement, which have been continued in specific initiatives by the Soviet Union.

They are starting to acknowledge the effectiveness of the Soviet initiatives. The way they attempt to turn this whole business upside down is shown by a comment I read in one recent American newspaper by -- this newspaper presents him as one of the most eminent U.S. experts on disarmament issues -- Scowcroft, a former presidential assistant on national security...

[Tsoppi, interrupting] Brent Scowcroft, the renowned politician, who goes back to the Nixon administration.

[Bandura] This is what he says -- I quote: The all-embracing nature and the boldness of the proposals put forward at Reykjavik have put into confusion the entire agenda for the sphere of arms control [kontrol and vooruzheniyami], and it will be difficult, almost impossible, to turn back and assemble the fragments into a whole. What is apparent from this? In my opinion it is evident that no one in the West, even the most outspoken supporters of continuing the arms race, has the power any longer to stand up against, has the power any longer to review the positions that we embarked upon in Reykjavik.

[Tsoppi] Today the Soviet threat has been transformed.

[Bandura] That is right.

[Tsoppi] It has become clear the Soviet Union is threatening the whole world with peace, and this has turned out to be very frightening.

[Bandura] One could talk about the Soviet peace threat.

[Charikov] Yuriy Nikolayevich, Brent Scowcroft is not the only U.S. politican who, no longer in office and retired, is criticizing the actions of the present administration. Why is it that only having become ex-holders of office, why is it that only having retired, do politicians begin saying really intelligent things? This question has always worried me. It seems to me that there is an answer to this. The answer is that while in service, while occupying an official post, as the saying goes, they are simply obliged, forced, to keep quiet, conceal their personal opinion, as they are called upon to express someone else's opinions. When they are no longer in office, their tongues loosen, and they obtain freedom of speech, so to speak, in the full sense, and thy begin to express the thoughts they were once forced to conceal. So, who is the person, or the group of people, so to speak, or the certain force, that has a hold on what they say while they are at the helm? What do you think, Viktor Aleksandrovich?

[Tsoppi] I think the answer here is rather trite and rather simple. I think if one is talking about the present administration, then it would not be a startling revelation to say the United States, its foreign policy, is guided by the military-industrial complex. I think this complex today has exceedingly talented defenders, exceedingly dogged pursuers of its ideas. For example, I have in mind Caspar Weinberger, the secretary of defense. At the same time one should not think the people working in the administration are all crazy, that they are all candidates for suicide. They are searching for some kind of justification for the policy that seems murderous and suicidal to everyone.

[Charikov] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement of 15 January, through its whole package of proposals, also applies to the peoples of other continents; not only Europe not only America, but also Asia and the Pacific Ocean region. Isn't that so, Yuriy Nikolayevich?

[Bandura] Of course. The propositions relating to Asian security expounded in the statement of 15 January were powerfully developed further in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok. One could name as an example the withdrawal of six of our regiments from Afghanistan, which demonstrates the readiness of the USSR to withdraw its troops from this country as soon as a political settlement for the situation regarding Afghanistan has been guaranteed. Unfortunately, one cannot say the new thinking is making ground widely on the Asian continent, to which ever increasing attention has been riveted in recent years.

I would like to dwell on one of the latest facts. In particular, just today, the trip to a number of countries in the Pacific Ocean region by Kuranari, the Japanese minister of Foreign Affairs, is coming to an end. He is putting forward the conception of Japan's mutual relations with countries in the Pacific Ocean region. If one tries to grasp attentively the propositions he is suggesting, it would seem nothing bad could be found in them. Japan is interested in peace, prosperity, stability in Asia and the Pacific. Japan is prepared to make its contribution. However, the phrase -- Japan is calling upon the countries of the Asian and Pacific region to counteract the USSR -- is being pronounced with perfect clarity between the lines and at times out in the open. It is, of course, impossible to understand what evidence Tokyo sees, as it calls it, the USSR's penetration into countries in the Pacific -- which it perceives to be a threat to its interests -- since the USSR has no such intentions.

A quite different option is visible here, namely, that in Tokyo, and in Washington as well, very serious misgivings are being expressed at those manifestations, those shoots of new thinking gaining ground in the Asian-Pacific countries, among others. It seems to me the predominant spectrum of the mood in Southeast Asia and in the Far East was expressed during the recent visit to China by Takeshita, secretary general of Japan's ruling party, who was told bluntly in Beijing that Tokyo's recently expressed intention to exceed its self-imposed limit on its military spending, set at 1 percent of the gross national product, is giving rise to the most serious fears in China. I think Japan's exceeding this limit, linked on a practical basis with the removal of all barriers to the development of the military machine within Japan itself, cannot but evoke a reaction from the peoples of other countries as well, particularly because actions of this kind, however they are justified, run counter to the flow of new thinking which today embraces virtually the whole world.

[Tsoppi] Yes, I also think there are grounds for optimism. I would like, time permitting, to recall that it was precisely in Asia that the Delhi declaration, that has become world renowned, was signed, openly setting the practicable task of creating a world free from nuclear arms and the use of force. Considering the very broad response this document evoked not only in the countries of Asia, that the situation in this region should shift, should move away from the fatal path that it is being pushed along by the joint efforts of the United States and its ally Japan.

[Charikov] In my view, Viktor Aleksandrovich, this Delhi declaration follows in its spirit from the statement of 15 January.

[Tsoppi] Of course.

[Charikov] Well, esteemed comrades, our program's time is running out. Allow me to sum up succinctly the results of our conversation today. The past year has shown the whole permanent significance of the 15 January statement, its global scale, its truly global scale, the constructiveness of the proposals contained in it, and their practicabilities, with their topical and timely nature.

[Tsoppi] I would put it like this. This statement is working and working increasingly vigorously.

[Charikov] That is right. Furthermore it is not only working among the public and the politicians of America and Europe, but also, as we were saying today, among the public in other continents: Africa, Asia, the Pacific region. As a matter of fact this document has rocked the minds of all mankind. It would not be an exaggeration to say that today we have in the form of this statement a document of truly epoch-making significance.

Well, comrades, allow me on behalf of the participants in the program, to thank you for your attention, and to say goodbye. All the best to you.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION -- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD161823 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 87

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program presented by commentator Sergey Pravdin with Sergey Losev, international affairs journalist and general director of TASS; and international affairs journalists Vladimir Pasko, Boris Andrianov, Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, Aleksandr Redchenko, Stanislav Kozlenko, Valentin Gorkayev]

[Excerpts] [Pravdin] Of course, comrades, you are aware the anniversary has occurred of the day on which Comrade Gorbachev in his statement of 15 January, last year, put forward a whole complex of initiatives aimed at eliminating nuclear, chemical, and other types of mass annihilation weapons by the end of this century. These days the editorial office is receiving many letters from listeners who write of their complete support for the peace-loving policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and condemn the intrigues of the imperialist forces and ask to be told about the new peace initiatives put forward in the past year by the USSR. [passage omitted naming 12 writers of such letters] It is simply impossible to list all of these letters. In our studio today is Sergey Andreyevich Losev, general director of TASS, whom we have invited to reply to your questions. Sergey Andreyevich, please.

[Losev] A year has passed since that statement was made. One can now state the program for creating a nuclear-free world has, without any doubt, received very broad international support. The countries of the socialist community conduct a coordinated foreign policy and naturally they not only support but also develop the USSR's initiatives. The participants in last November's working meeting in Moscow of the leaders of the fraternal parties of the socialist countries which are members of CEMA supported the USSR's principled positions in Reykjavik and stressed the need to step up joint efforts in the interests of the struggle to eliminate nuclear weapons and to reduce conventional weapons, for the strengthening of peace and international security.

The lines for the creation of a nuclear-free world which were sketched in at the Soviet-U.S. meeting in the Icelandic capital clearly showed that accords on eliminating nuclear weapons are achievable now and not at some time in the distant future.

The USSR's approach to preventing a nuclear catastrophe has much in common with the position adopted by the nonaligned countries. This allowed our country to react positively to the Harare appeal by the conference of heads of states and governments of the nonaligned countries.

The conference called for the arms race to be ended, for nuclear weapons to be abolished, and for the resources freed by this to be used to eradicate hunger, illiteracy, poverty, and disease.

[Pravdin] What is the current position of the West European countries and the United States?

[Losev] It must be said that among the United States' West European NATO allies unconcealed dissatisfaction with, and doubts about the common sense of, the United States leadership are increasing. As Irangate develops, these feelings are becoming apparent in the United States as well. It is no coincidence three bills have been introduced for discussion by the House of Representatives in the first days of the 100th convocation of the U.S. Congress. These are bills on introducing a partial moratorium on nuclear tests, on continuing the ban on testing the ASAT antisatellite system against real targets in space, on returning the United States to within the framework of the main limitations imposed by the SALT II treaty. The striving to limit the administration's militaristic programs is also known by the opposition in Congress to the draft federal budget for the 1988 financial year.

However, the United States and NATO continue to prefer to ignore the will of the peoples and do not show any readiness to reach mutually-acceptable understandings.

[Pravdin] What is the track record, as it were, of the U.S. Government on questions of war and peace?

[Losev] Between 1981 and 1987 the Reagan administration, which is a protege of the military-industrial complex, has not signed a single agreement on reducing armed forces and armaments. Moreover, it is conducting a course of derailing the SALT II treaty and the termless ABM Treaty, to wrteck the whole structure of agreements with the USSR which was created with the participation of the four previous U.S. Administrations. As the authoritative U.S. magazine FOREIGN AFFAIRS states in its latest edition, Reagan has proved to be the most anti-Soviet U.S. President in the past 30 years and perhaps the most anti-Soviet ever. He set himself the aim not of strengthening the status quo between East and West but of overturning it.

A few days ago, on the eve of the resumption of the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva the U.S. President gave the assurance he was striving to achieve significant, just, and effectively verifiably reductions in the U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals.

But what are needed now are not words and assurances but concrete deeds. Meanwhile, the present administration's track record is very revealing. While the USSR has been observing a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions for over 17 months, the United States has in that period conducted 24 nuclear tests and is preparing a new series. Our country does not exceed the limit set by the SALT II treaty whereas the United States has deliberately exceeded those limits and has deployed [razvernut] 133 B-52 strategic bombers with nuclear cruise missiles and MX intercontinental ballistic missiles with independently targetable warheads. The USSR has not only frozen the number of its medium-range missiles in the European part of the USSR but has even reduced their number. In this period the United States has increased the number of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe to 364.

The USSR has not withdrawn a single one of the proposals it made at Reykjavik. But the U.S., on the contrary, is constantly departing from its proposals which it made at the meeting in the Icelandic capital, and tries to cover up this back-sliding with crude falsification and forgery.

Convincing examples of this were cited at the recent press conference in the USSR Foreign Ministry. President Reagan was prepared in Reykjavik to undertake the obligation not to depart from the ABM Treaty for 10 years. A week and a half leter Max Kampelman, the head of the U.S. delegation in Geneva, said the United States could not undertake such an unconditional obligation not to depart from the treaty, and that it could only discuss with the Soviet side the rules for departing from the ABM Treaty. Concerning strategic offensive weapons, the President agreed in Reykjavik to eliminate all offensive strategic weapons within 10 years; at the Geneva talks the U.S. delegation is prepared to discuss only the question of eliminating ballistic missiles. On medium-range missiles, the U.S. delegation is seeking to obtain the right to deploy [razvernut] medium-range missiles on the territory of the United States in such a way that they could strike USSR territory and would thus acquire strategic significance.

A sort of litmus paper which allows one to correctly judge the trend of Washington's policies is the present administration's striving to push ahead with the implementation of the Star Wars program with the aim of achieving military superiority over our country and to create [sozdat] the potential for making a first strike.

Finally, under the influence of the United States, NATO is continuing to delay replying to the specific proposals made by the Warsaw Treaty last June with regard to a deep reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

[Pravdin] Have there been no changes in the U.S. position of late?

[Losev] You know, on 13 January the U.S. President in a message to the Senate expressed the administration's readiness to agree to the ratification of the 1974 Soviet-U.S. treaty on limiting the capacity of underground testing of nuclear weapons and to the ratification of the 1976 treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. To the uninformed it might seem some sort of positive movement had finally occurred in Washington's position. On looking closer, however, this is just a maneuver whose purpose, as THE WASHINGTON POST puts it, is to block the adoption by the U.S. Congress of an amendment prohibiting the United States from conducting nuclear tests.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stresses, we continue to regard the total banning of nuclear weapons testing as a primary measure on the path to curbing and subsequently eliminating nuclear weapons. The USSR proposes this question be resolved without delay. The USSR intends to continue consistently and resolutely to oppose the irresponsible course of the U.S. Administration by putting forward its line of disarmament and of creating universal security.

[Pravdin] Some of our listeners put the questions this way: Are there any sensible officials in the U.S. ruling circles?

[Losev] Of course there are. Unfortunately they do not hold the levers of power in the United States. For example, just yesterday Paul Warnke, former head of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks, made the following characteristic statement. He stressed the USSR's demand for limiting work on SDI to laboratory research is legitimate and well-founded from all points of view. Implementation of this demand, Warnke said, would be a guarantee that the United States would not be able within a short time period, 2-3 years, to deploy [razvernut] a strategic defense system in space. In this connection we propose banning the testing in space of any strike systems of destruction.

Warnke continued that we could now begin talks on determining the framework of the ban, and parallel to this, begin, for example, a stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear weapons. In Warnke's opinion, renunciation of creating [sozdaniye] a strategic antimissile defense system would not only permit the military balance to be preserved but would also consolidate stability and security in the world and the confidence of the two sides in the absence of any threat of a first strike being made.

[Pravdin] The Irangate scandal in the White House caused by the disclosure of secret arms deliveries to Iran has undermined the administration's positions both in the country and abroad. Many U.S. observers are now trying to guess which way the White House will turn to seek a way out from the present unprecedented difficulties.

[Losev] U.S. observers and politicians are united in the opinion it has two possible avenues: To go in for a foreign adventure or to seek understanding with the USSR. For example, former Assistant Secretary of State Eagleburger expresses the opinion that a Soviet-U.S. agreement on limiting nuclear weapons would receive support in the United States from the left, the right, and the center in present conditions. As is noted by former National Security Assistant to the President Brzezinski -- and he is not a friend to us -- it is up to President Reagan to decide whether he wants to make another attempt to reach agreement.

The world cannot, of course, pin its hopes on the White House's decision because the elimination of nuclear weapons and preventing the arms race in space is a vital concern for all states and peoples, large and small. The survival of mankind depends on this.

[Pravdin] Comrade Demidovich from the settlement of Mamontovo, Altay Kray, asks about the economic situation in Poland since the well-known events of the start of the 1980's. Commentator Vladimir Pasko replies to this question.

[Pasko] The economic situation in Poland in the past 4 years has been characterized by an increase in industrial and agricultural output, a positive trade balance with Western countries, and a gradual improvement on the internal market. [passage omitted detailing the improvements and further tasks]

I would like to mention the political and economic stabilization of Poland has also had an effect on strengthening its international positions. The routine sabotage attempt by the West against socialism in Poland ended in failure and it is returning to normal business links with that country. Even Washington is talking about doing likewise; its economic sanctions against Poland have caused it losses of $15 billion. A few days ago THE WASHINGTON POST noted that the opinion is strengthening within the Reagan administration of the necessity for following the example of its West European allies. However, at the same time the newpaper made the reservation that certain officials continue to favor a cautious policy -- in other words they oppose the lifting of sanctions.

Inertia in ways of thinking based on hatred of socialism seems to be too strong in the United States. [passage omitted: participants comment on Chile, southern Africa, Suriname, Chad, Spain and NATO, and Japan]

FURTHER ON U.S. PLANS IN IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

LD191724 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Bonn January 19 TASS -- Taking advantage of the deteriorating situation on the Iran-Iraq front, the United States is preparing for a direct intervention in the Persian Gulf war. As the West German DER SPIEGEL magazine said, this interference will take place if the Iranian troops capture the Iraqi strategic city of Basra.

According to information obtained by DER Speigel, the Pentagon is planning to send to the Persian Gulf in the course of a few days up to six divisions and 600 war planes chiefly from Europe. The aircraft carrier "John F. Kennedy" has already been ordered together with several destroyers to set out for the Hormuz Strait. Another three U.S. Air Force squadrons including F-16 aircraft have been dispatched to Turkey.

A few days ago the ASSOCIATED PRESS Agency issued a statement by Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former U.S. National Security adviser, calling for the withdrawal from Western Europe of nearly a third of U.S. troops to strengthen U.S. defences in south-west Eurasia. These troops, Zbigniew Brzezinski said, are to be included into the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) intended to defend the U.S. interests in the oil-rich Persian Gulf area.

There is no doubt that direct U.S. interference in the Iran-Iraq war will further complicate the situation in the Middle and Near East and protract the conflict between these two nations.

IAEA'S BLIX HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON CHERNOBYL

LD161443 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- Life withing the 30 km zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power station returns back to normal, Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), stated today.

He is currently in the USSR on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Speaking at a press conference here today, he pointed out that people had already returned to two settlements withing the 30 km zone.

Another 24 townships, where decontamination work has been completed are ready to receive population.

It is supposed that in the course of 1987 the inhabitants of the 30 km zone will be able to return to their homes, he added.

As far as the 10 km zone around the nuclear power station is concerned, it will take more time to decontaminate it. So far no provision is made for the inhabitants' return.

Hans Blix and his party visited the Chernobyl nuclear power station recently They told journalists about the operation of the station's first and second power units brought into operation following the necessary measures to guarantee their safety.

Life outside the 30 km zone looks quite normal, said Morris Rosen, Director of IAEA's Nuclear Safety Department.

The damaged fourth power unit is reliably buried in the concrete sarcophagus. The release of radiation is now negligible, and the radiation background there is ten times lower than that of a normally operating power station, he said. A possibility of a chain reaction or deterioration of the situation are practically ruled out following the finalisation of emergency work on the fourth power unit.

Speaking of forecasts for a long-term effect of the Chernobyl catastrophe on human health, Morris Rosen pointed out that the original pessimistic estimates had been greatly exaggerated.

These are now being reconsidered in the direction of diminution.

Hans Blix informed those present of today's conversation with Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Touched upon during the conversation were, in particular, matters concerning the safety of nuclear plants and international cooperation within the IAEA framework.

In the appraisal of the IAEA director-general this cooperation has yielded good results.

In answer to a question about prospects for the establishment of a nuclear-free world, Hans Blix said he took an optimistic view of nuclear disarmament.

"I think that possibilities for establishing a world without nuclear weapons exist," he emphasised.

JOURNAL ON PROSPECTS OF CEMA-EUROPEAN COOPERATION

LD161635 Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- The future of the European continent largely depends on progress in the regulation of commercial and other economic relations between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community, the formulation of the basic principles of relations among countries of those organizations under treaties, writes journal of the CPSU Central Committee POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE (POLICITCAL SELF-EDUCATION).

The creation of an international socialist market in the CMEA framework is not an obstacle to cooperation with countries of a different system, the journal writes. The socialist international division of labour takes into account world division of labour. The development of bilateral cooperation between European socialist and capitalist countries made it possible to pass over to multilateral cooperation.

The journal holds that the most important trends of European cooperation include solution of problems connected with the supply of raw materials and energy to Europe, space exploration, uses of the world ocean, environmental protection. There exist examples multilateral cooperation in those areas.

The journal recalls that since 1976 the CMEA bodies advanced a number of compromise proposals aimed at concluding a treaty or agreement regulating the basic principles of economic relations between the two organizations and among countries participating in those integrational groups.

In order to implement potential opportunities for the establishment of various forms of multilateral cooperation in Europe, partners in the east and the west of Europe should take a number of concrete steps, the journal writes. Balanced trade cannot be achieved without the use by all West European countries of the Most Favoured Nation treatment principle, without their removing trade and non-trade barriers.

REAGAN RADIO ADDRESS 'IN SPIRIT OF MILITARISM'

LD181334 Moscow TASS in English 1307 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Washington January 18 TASS -- President Reagan has made a new radio address imbued with the spirit of militarism. He contended that the United States could conduct affairs with the Soviet Union from positions of strength and recalled with satisfaction that since the coming of his administration into office there had been a massive buildup of American military potential.

For instance, four battleships were modernised and 124 new ships purchased for the Navy, including two aircraft carriers and about two dozen modern cruisers and destroyers. The Air Force got about 2500 tactical fighter planes. The head of the administration said that the whole world had witnessed the strengthening by the United States of its role of "defender of freedom" and cited as an example the "liberation" of Grenada.

It is well known that the tiny island state fell victim to a brutal and totally unprovoked invasion by the United States. Throughout the world this action was branded as a brazen aggression.

The head of the administration intimated that he intended to spiral military expenditures further. He stated that Congress should not "undermine" America's might and allocate "sufficient" money for military spending. President Reagan reminded Congress that in 1985 and 1986 it had trimmed the military budget and expressed hope that this would not happen again.

The administration's interpretation of the word "sufficient" is well known. In its draft budget for the 1988 fiscal year the White House demanded the astronomical sum of 312 billion dollars for military aims. More than that, it is intended to spend a total of some 630 billion dollars for military purposes in the two fiscal years of 1988 and 1989.

The President did not conceal that the purpose of these massive military preparations and the buildup of nuclear and conventional armaments is to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union.

The United States doggedly continues to pursue this aim despite numerous evidence that this is illusionary and unattainable.

Reagan chose also to sidestep the social and economic consequences of these military preparations for the United States. Thus, during the present administration's stay in office the state debt of the United States will have grown from 1.5 to 2.5 trillion dollars.

TASS ON SENATE'S HUMAN RIGHTS DRAFT RESOLUTION

LD172318 Moscow TASS in English 2212 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 17 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Sergey Kulik writes:

Yet another gross attempt at interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union has been made in Washington. This time a draft resolution protesting "human rights repression" in the Soviet Union has been submitted to the senators for discussion.

The draft resolution repeats the conjectures borrowed from yellow propaganda and gives facts spun out of thin air and designed to prove the unprovable, namely, that the Soviet Union "denies basic human rights".

The very discussion by the legislative body of one country of the internal affairs of another one is an unlawful and inadmissible occurrence.

It would have been far better if the members of the U.S. Congress began to consider real violations of human rights in the United States itself. The more so as, judging even by the admissions of the U.S. press, the members of Congress have a good deal to consider in this respect.

Thus, the senators did not find time to finalise the process of ratification of the international convention on the prevention of the crimes of genocide and on punishment for it. The Senate, it is true, declared in favour of the U.S. acceding to the document but with a number of reservations and provided an appropriate legislation is adopted in development of the convention. However, no such legislation has been adopted as yet.

According to a report issued recently by the U.S. Lawyers Association, a fair legal process is not ensured in the United States. The amendment to the Constitution under which "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law" is continuously violated. According to the association's report, 1,836 Americans sentenced to death had no opportunity to secure a reexamination of their cases owing to the lack of funds to retain defence lawyers. At the same time, according to the Atlanta Prisoners Defence Committee, in 70 percent of the reexamined cases of persons sentenced to death, the original court sentence was changed in the direction of commutation.

The Americans' right to a standard of life worthy of the human being is ignored. The number of the poor who chronically live in abject poverty is large as never before. There are 18 million poor in the United States now.

The right to the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is being flagrantly violated. New instances of the persecution of dissidents were added in recent days alone to the commonly known ones.

Thus, 18 anti-war protesters were arrested near the Pentagon on December 29 and near the White House on December 31, 1986, on charges of violating the peace and causing damage to state property. In actual fact the arrested were pressing for nuclear disarmament.

The right to defence from racial discrimination and segregation exists in the United States only on paper. The report that appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES on December 20, 1986, may serve as evidence of that. The report had it that Billy Joe Hicks, a black, was arrested by white policemen in San Diego.

He was accused of walking his dog without a leash. He was handcuffed and then roped to the saddle of a policeman's horse and dragged along the main street of the city. So, the lawmakers on the Capitol Hill who advocate the observance of human rights have something to tackle back at home before interfering in the affairs of others. Buth they do not wish to do that.

Why? The answer is contained in the already mentioned anti-Soviet draft resolution submitted to the Senate's consideration.

Upon piling up yarns about 'current human rights policies" of the Soviet Union", the sponsors of the draft resolution draw a far-reaching conclusion, namely, that "the Soviet Union's continued human rights abuses seriously affect the atmosphere for productive negotiations on other aspects of bilateral relations" between the two countries and "make more difficult the reaching of viable agreements with the Soviet Union". [quotation marks as received]

The anti-Soviet lies were thus needed again to conceal the truth about the real goals of the policy of Washington which in every way hinders an improvement of the international situation.

ZHAO ZIYANG MEETING WITH MSZMP'S HAVASI REPORTED

LD191406 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Beijing January 19 TASS -- Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), received Ferencz Havasi, a member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP] Central Committee, now staying here.

Zhao Ziyang informed Havasi of the recent enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party twelfth Central Committee at which Hu Yaobang was relieved of the duties of the general secretary of the Party Central Committee, and set out the key directions in the PRC policy, XINHUA news agency reports.

He said that personnel changes in the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee would not have an impact on the line, course and policy of the Chinese People's Republic conducted since the time of the third plenary meeting of the Chinese Communist Party eleventh Central Committee, and would help realize them more correctly.

Touching upon China's foreign policy, Zhao Ziyang said that his country would continue pursuing the policy of open access to the outside world. "We can only extend cooperation with other countries in the economic, trade, technical and financial areas, which will grow deeper and broader," he said. In the field of the domestic life the principal efforts will be focussed on "developing the productive forces, and speeding up the construction of socialist material and spiritual culture".

"Launching the drive against bourgeois liberalization in conditions when this ideological trend was observed to be spreading lately is designed to translate into life correctly and comprehensively the line of the third plenary meeting of the Chinese Communist Party eleventh Central Committee and will by no means influence the reform, the open-doors policy and the revitalization of the economy. In the process of the struggle against bourgeois liberalization it is essential to lay special emphasis on political guideposts. The moves to launch political campaigns, the more so the repetition of 'Leftist' errors which occurred in the past, should be prevented".

XINHUA news agency points out that the sides exchanged views on the issues of developing further friendship and cooperation between China and Hungary, the Chinese Communist Party and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

ZHAO ZIYANG TO MEET ZIMBABWE'S ROBERT MUGABE

LD191429 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Beijing January 19 TASS -- Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Gabriel Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union -- Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), today arrived here on a three-day unofficial visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government. Robert Mugabe will have talks with Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and premier of the Council of State of the People's Republic of China, and meet Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Commission of Advisers of the Communist Party of China.

'REFORM' IN CADRE SYSTEM PLANNED IN PRC

PM151454 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov report: "Reassignment of Cadres"]

[Text] Beijing -- Unqualified cadre workers will be demoted or transferred to other work, a circular form the organizational section of the CPC Central Committee states.

This principal has been carried out for 2 years in a number of institutions, and now it will apply officially for cadre, party, and administrative workers at district [uyezd] level and above.

Their qualifications will be determined by their direct subordinates, and also by leaders of subordinate organizations, through a secret ballot every year. Anyone who does not enjoy the confidence of the majority will be assessed by the leaders of subordinate institutions, who will decide his fate. The entire procedure must take place in accordance with the law.

Workers who are demoted because of their lack of work experience but who have potential leadership qualities will be sent on retraining courses.

The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO notes in a commentary: "The promotion of qualified cadres and the demotion of unqualified ones is an important step in the reform of China's cadre system."

PRC'S NPC STANDING COMMITTEE SESSION OPENS

PM151612 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Session of Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee"]

[Text] Beijing, 13 Jan -- The Chinese press reports that a routine session of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], Sixth Convocation, has opened here.

It has heard an information report on the question of drawing up a draft law on the customs service and has submitted for examination a draft law on rural committees.

The session will examine other questions.

BORDER TRADE WITH PRC TOPS R30 MILLION IN 1986

LD201129 Moscow TASS in English 0957 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS -- The volume of Soviet-Chinese border trade topped 30 million roubles in 1986 or four times as much as in 1983.

The USSR exports to China cement, glass, fertilizers, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, photographic equipment, cars, motor cycles and products made locally and in the Far East. In turn, the USSR will import agricutural products, textiles and household goods.

A decision was taken on additional mutual deliveries in 1986-1990 to the tune of 500 million roubles. Valeriy Lozovoy, director general of the Foreign Trade Association Dalintorg, noted that provision was made, apart from exchanging goods, for broad border cooperation. It can include such forms as industrial cooperation, deals on pay-back basis and establishement of joint enterprises. Using the Amur River, the sides plan to organize constant haulage of foreign trade cargoes of the two countries. Relevant documents have been signed.

MONGOLIAN PRESS CITED ON USSR TROOP WITHDRAWAL

LD171529 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 17 January (MONTSAME) -- The Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries conduct an active policy aimed at strengthening universal peace and ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The MPR, Soviet Union and other Asian socialist countries together with all progressive forces exert every effort at making Asia and the Pacific a region of stability, goodneighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation, the leading article of the national daily "UNEN" says.

"UNEN" notes that the Mongolian proposal to create a mechanism excluding the use of force in relations among the states of the Asia-Pacific region, enjoys broad support ofthe world public. The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the MPR Government attach special significance to the cooperation in this direction with all the states, political parties and organisations of the region. On the MPR initiative a consultative meeting of communist and workers parties from interested Asian and Pacific countries will take place in Ulaanbaatar this year.

Mutual understanding and trust, broad political dialogue for settling disputes are the major means of bringing about reliable peace in the Asian Continent. This is what the constructive peace initiatives and proposals set forth by M. Gorbachev in 1986 in Vladdivostok, aim at. Comrade M. Gorbachev informed there of the talks begin held between our countries on the question of withdrawing a certain part of Soviet troops from the MPR territory.

This [word indistinct] line with the decision of the Soviet leadership and upon agreement with the MPR Government, certain part of Soviet troops temporarily stationed in the territory of our country, will return home. In the words of Comrade Jambyn Batmonh, this accords with the noble objectives of strengthening peace in Asia, of creating the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, of establishing goodneighbourly relations among the states of the continent, "UNEN" writes.

The paper underscores that the partial return of Soviet troops to their country is an important measure and a bold step stemming from goodwill. It is a step which means a switch-over from the dialogue on peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region to practical actions. The universal significance of this move has been specifically emphasized in the MPR Government statement of 15 January this year.

The working people of socialist Mongolia hold in awe the intransient services of the Soviet Armed Forces to humanity and in safetguarding the security and socialist gains of the MPR. The Mongolian and Soviet Armed Forces shall further stand together on guard of the Mongolian people's peaceful labour, strengthen and defend peace in Asia and Far East, the national daily "UNEN" writes.

PRAVDA VIEWS PARTIAL USSR PULLOUT FROM MONGOLIA

PM191847 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 87 First Edition p 5

[Andrey Krushinskiy "Commentator's Column": "Words Followed Up by Action"]

[Text] One of the reports which is currently being widely discussed in the world press is the withdrawal and return home of one motorized rifle division and several individual units of the contingent of Soviet forces temporarily stationed on Mongolian territory which is scheduled for April-June. [paragraph continues]

This decision was adopted by the Soviet leadership in agreement with the Mongolian Government. The significance of the announced step is obvious. As the Mongolian Government statement notes, this act of good will is based on the two fraternal countries' principled, peace-loving course aimed at strengthening the foundations of peace and stability in Asia and throughtout the world.

The creation of the bases of a comprehensive system of peace and international security in Asia and the Pacific region has been placed on the agenda by life itself, or rather by the deterioration of the situation in that part of the world for which imperialism is to blame.

Of key importance for the cause of peace and security in the region was the well-known Vladivostok speech of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in which a package of constructive measures was put forward. It also mentioned a number of active steps called upon to give concrete expression to the USSR's desire to build new, fair relations in Asia and the Pacific, and to impart dynamism to our relations with all the countries of this vast region without exception. Specifically, it also referred to plans that were being discussed by the Soviet Union and the Mongolian leadership with a view to the withdrawal of a substantial part of Soviet forces from Mongolia. And now the world can once again see for itself that the socialist countries' deeds accord with their words.

In our time it is difficult to overestimate the significance of concrete measures in the international arena. As for the West, and primarily the United States, they have a great deficit in this area. Meanwhile, peoples are increasingly insistently demanding that practical steps aimed at a relaxation of tension, ending the arms race and military confrontation, and strengthening international trust be taken. Millions of people in the world, including the vast expanses of Asia, have warmly welcomed the moratorium and other actions of the USSR and the fraternal socialist countries taken in the interests of the practical solution of the problem of ensuring mankind's survival and building a safe world.

This is another specific step, another example of the implementation of the principles of the new political thinking and a genuinely constructive approach to international relations. It is a visible act of good will, a serious and farsighted step. It will contribute to the strengthening of mutual understanding, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between the countries and peoples of the Asian region, and boost the cause of peace.

TROOP PULLOUT IN MONGOLIA DEEMED 'CONSTRUCTIVE'

LD161923 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1518 GMT 16 Jan 87

["An Act of Goodwill" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jan -- TASS political observer Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

The Governments of the Soviet Union and People's Mongolia have taken a new step on the path to securing universal peace and security in Asia. The withdrawal from Mongolia to the Soviet Union of one full-strength motorized rifle division and several individual units from the contingent of Soviet troops that are in the MPR temporarily will be implemented in the Arpil-June time frame.

This act of goodwill, as is emphasized in the statement of the MPR Government, originates from the fundamental peace-loving course of the Soviet Union and People's Mongolia. [paragraph continues]

It is a new, practical step in the business of implementing the large-scale constructive Soviet initiatives aimed at setting up an all-embracing system of peace and international security in the extensive Asia-Pacific Ocean region. As is known, the essence of these initiatives was set forth by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Vladivostok last June.

The interest in this region manifested by the Soviet Union is natural. A state that has its longest border in Asia, the Soviet Union is doing much to ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is not a source of tension, an arena of military confrontation. And it is precisely that which the ruling circles in the United States are striving toward. On so many occasions in the postwar period, Asia has become an arena for imperialist brigandage, which has today become the pivot of the doctrine of "neoglobalism." It is enough to recall just the fact that in Asia the U.S. military unleashed the two biggest wars since 1945 -- in Korea and Vietnam.

Of late, the United States has not been concealing its efforts to expand the buildup of its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region in order to turn it into an arena of military-political confrontation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and national-liberation forces. The United States has ringed the socialist countries of Asia with a chain of military bases; they have deployed nuclear-weapon carriers and nuclear warheads in one of the crisis zones -- the Korean peninsula, and, moreover, nuclear-weapon carriers on the territory of Japan.

The international situation and the whole course of events testifies to the fact that the minds of the peoples of the world are becoming more and more attracted to the idea that, in our nuclear age, peace and security cannot be safeguarded by a policy of force. The Asia-Pacific region must become part of the worldwide process directed toward preventing a thermonuclear war. That is why the Soviet Union not only tirelessly calls for joint efforts to seek ways to strengthen peace, security, and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Ocean basin but also backs up its calls with concrete actions. And one of these is the forthcoming withdrawal of a unit of Soviet troops, a unit that is temporarily stationed on the territory of fraternal Mongolia.

ROGACHEV RECEIVED BY MONGOLIA'S BATMONH

LD191647 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Great People's Hural of Mongolia, today received Comrade Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister. They had a friendly conversation on several aspects of Soviet-Mongolian relations and also on matters concerning further cooperation between the two countries in the international arena, including the Asia-Pacific region. Comrade Rogachev is on a working visit to Mongolia, during which he has held talks with Yondon, first deputy foreign minister of Mongolia. A plan for cooperation between the USSR and Mongolian Foreign Ministries for 1987 has been signed.

ROK FEARS ABOUT DPRK DAM RIDICULED

PM151143 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Jan 87 p 3

[A. Zaytsev "Rejoinder": "Seoul Flood"]

[Text] After reading this morning's South Korean newspapers, the inhabitants of Seoul rushed to stock up on sailing equipment and life jackets. [paragraph continues]

The city and suburbs, Seoul propaganda reported, are threatened with inundation.

Whence comes this catastrophe? From a typhoon, tsunami, or flood? No, it is not a question of a natural cataclysm. The source of the deadly danger is seen as... the Kumgangsan Hydroelectric Power Station that is being built in the DPRK. According to Seoul, this purely peaceful installation is being constructed exclusively for military purposes -- in order to allow the "perfidious North" to blow up the dam at an appropriate moment and unleash a "water strike" against Seoul. These fabrications have also been picked up by the U.S. press and spread by U.S. representatives even within the United Nations.

The white paper published in the DPRK the other day on the construction of the Kumgangsan GES convincingly proves that there is one word to describe the horrors with which the South Korean population are being terrified -- rantings.

Seoul's rulers launched their slander campaign at a time when the South Korean population's struggle against the dictatorial Chon Tu-hwan regime had sharply intensified. On the other hand, prospects for holding high-level North-South military-political talks had recently emerged as a result of the DPRK's peace initiatives. The "threat from the North" campaign was intended, as has repeatedly been the case in the past, to help to quell the wave of popular anger, save the Chon Tu-hwan regime, and complicate the search for the peaceful unification of Korea.

But the latest outburst of anticommunist hysteria in Seoul is also timely, as far as Chon Tu-hwan's transatlantic patrons are concerned. Using the ruckus as cover, the United States is expediting its plans to further militarize South Korea and is building up its military presence there. Just recently it was decided to transfer there from Guam U.S. B-52 strategic bombers armed with cruise missiles. The U.S. nuclear potential in the region will soon be strengthened still further with the deployment of Lance missiles, which can carry conventional, nuclear, or neutron charges. Despite opposition protests, a record military budget was pushed through the South Korean Parliament at the end of last year. It envisages 14 percent growth in military spending and a sharp increase in purchases of U.S. combat hardware. So if Seoul is threatened with being inundated by anything, it is with U.S. weapons.

RADIO MOSCOW ON NAKASONE'S EAST EUROPEAN VISIT

OW190544 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to Finland, East Germany, Yugoslavia, and Poland is continuing. Radio Moscow Commentator Dmitriyev comments on this:

The question of developing bilateral relations was brought up at each meeting between Prime Minister Nakasone and leaders of Finland, East Germany, and Yugoslavia. Mr Honecker, German Democratic Republic leader, expressed his desire to expand political dialogue with Japan in order to promote peaceful coexistence. Trade exchanges were also largely discussed at these meetings. In Belgrade, assistance to developing nations was discussed.

In meetings held thus far, the focus was on the nuclear disarmament issue. Finnish President Koivisto and Prime Minister Nakasone shared the view that a dialogue should be expanded between the East and West for peace. Summarizing the result of the 4-hour talks in Berlin, Prime Minister Nakasone said that both sides agreed that nuclear disarmament was important for peace. Yugoslav Premier Midulic said the world is on the verge of a crisis.

Of course, no one can doubt that disarmament is a serious question. There can be no one who denies the need to remove the threat of nuclear arms in today's world. However, the difference of views regarding approaches to various nuclear disarmament issues was clearly revealed. For example, Prime Minister Nakasone said that the Soviet-U.S. Reykjavik meeting failed because the Soviet Union presented its proposals in package form, and he called on the Soviet Union to follow a realistic line and tackle the disarmament issue on a gradual basis.

However, the Soviet plan to abolish nuclear arms by the year 2000 represents a proposal for a phased tackling of nuclear disarmament, does it not? Concerning the Soviet package of proposals in Reykjavik, it is natural to handle basically correlated issues in block, is it not?

Mr Honecker, leader of the German Democratic Republic, stressed that the failure to consolidate agreement in Reykjavik on the reduction of nuclear arms into a treaty is chiefly attributable to the tenacious U.S. position of sticking to the Star Wars plan. Mr Nakasone, prime minster of the Japanese Government which had decided to particpate in the SDI in September last year, tried to defend this U.S. scheme leading to space militarization.

It appears that both East European countries and Finland do not consider Soviet policies unrealistic. During his visit, this state guest from Japan heard positive assessment regarding Soviet policies in both Helsinki and Berlin. In his interview with Japanese reporters before Prime Minister Nakasone's arrival, Yugoslav Premier Mikulic said that General Secretary Gorbachev's disarmament proposal should be received seriously.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Nakasone, Mr Honecker, chairman of the council of State of the German Democratic Republic, charged that the United States not only continued nuclear tests in disregard of the 1-sided Soviet moratorium, but also abrogated the SALT II treaty. By the way, the Japanese leadership defended the U.S. abrogation of the SALT II treaty, a dangerous step, last December.

While visiting the capital city of the German Democratic Republic, Prime Minister Nakasone rehashed old arguments over the verification issue, which is no longer a pending issue technically and politically, and tried to link it to the question of halting nuclear tests.

Japan's territorial claim toward the Soviet Union also failed to gain understanding. When this question was raised in Helsinki, President Koivisto stressed that Finland has been on very good terms with the Soviet Union historically and their relations are now very satisfactory.

In Berlin, Chairman of the Council of State Honecker pointed out that the Soviet position on Asian security was realistic and constructive.

Prime Minister Nakasone is continuing his visit. He arrived in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, yesterday. From Belgrade, he will visit Poland. It is hoped that Prime Minister Nakasone's present tour of foreign countries will contribute to promoting mutual understanding between the East and the West. At any rate, it will be by no means useless for Japan to have an opportunity to learn directly new approaches which are different from the Japanese Government's pro-U.S. views on world issues.

DRA, USSR TROOPS REPORTED RETURNING TO BASES

LD171744 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul January 17 TASS -- In keeping with the decision on a ceasefire, units of the Afghan Army and the limited Soviet military contingent have started returning to the places of their permanent location as of yesterday, BAKHTAR news agency reports today.

DRA'S NAJIB HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE 18 JAN

PM201018 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 4

["Afghanistan: The People's Political Creativity" -- IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] Kabul, 19 Jan (TASS) -- Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee,held a press conference for local and foreign journalists who arrived here to cover the work of the Second National Front Congress and the start of practical implementation of the policy of national reconciliation proclaimed by the extraordinary PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Reconciliation, he stated, is the political creation of the people, and only the people, the creators of their own history, will answer all the questions of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is historic virgin soil on which our people are treading. Reconciliation is the alternative to war; it is the desire of the people, arrived at through suffering. Reconciliation is peace with someone; there must without fail be two sides involved.

The truce [peremiriye], Najib continued, is a cease-fire, is the first step, and it is an integral part of reconciliation. During the first 3 days of the reconciliation, 3,500 members of armed formations in Herat and 500 in Faryab have gone over to the side of people's power.

Najib emphasized that the cease-fire, announced for a period of 6 months, is the first stage of reconciliation. Time will tell if this is enough to settle all questions. We are prepared to extend the truce even after the 6 months are over, if the opposite side supports the cease-fire. We want the truce to develop into permanent peace.

Turning down our proposals is very easy. You do not need to be too clever to do this. Yet it is not so easy to turn down the will of the people for peace and concord. It would be a historical mistake, a crime.

We are prepared for reconciliation with anyone standing on the patriotic platform, anyone who is for a free, democratic, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan, the Afghan leader pointed out. With whom will we not become reconciled? With those who continue the fratricidal war.

Afghanistan has suffered enormous loss from war. There are several dimensions to this loss. There is a different economic loss: all things that have been wrecked, blown up, and destroyed. The damage is in excess of 50 billion afghanis. There is the main human loss: thousands killed, wounded, and maimed by the war -- Afghans -- thousands of broken families, thousands of Afghans forced to lead a miserable existence in exile.

According to estimates, Najib said, there are more than 2 million Afghans beyond the country's borders. This is our common plight, as, of course, thousands of our brothers have become victims of a war imposed on us. A cease-fire is the guarantee of safety for those returning. This is a possibility for all those who return to work calmly and peacefully for the benefit of their people. We are prepared to meet in their homeland all political figures who are now outside the borders of the country and to start talking with each of them.

I would like to note that the prestige of the PDPA is so high at present that four Left-Democratic organizations recently joined the ranks of the PDPA. Yesterday an agreement was signed on the SAFZA [expansion unknown], a major revolutionary organization of the working people of Afghanistan, joining the PDPA. The PDPA is today fulfilling a historic mission and is the inspiring force and organizer of the process of national reconciliation. By proposing reconciliation the PDPA is expressing its own will. And this testifies to the strength of its influence and to its support by the masses. Now we are proposing that the shedding of blood in vain be halted.

Unfortunately, there are instances of the cease-fire being violated by the opposite side, but there are not many of them. Right now it is difficult to judge why or what this is -- ignorance, provocation, or deliberate actions.

Reconciliation is the alternative to war, the Afghan leader went on to stress. The rejection of reconciliation signifies war. I want to say straight away: If this happens, it will not be our choice. The cease-fire is a step which, in our opinion, should accelerate the course of negotiations in Geneva and promote their speedier completion.

If there is no war, no armed interference from outside, then the Soviet troops, having fulfilled their international duty, will return home. Correspondingly, after the achievement of national peace and agreement and the signing of accords in Geneva on noninterference from outside, the need for Soviet troops in Afghanistan no longer arises. They remain a guarantee for the nonresumption of outside armed aggression. The timely help of the USSR for Afghanistan is fraternal help: A nation has helped a nation. It gave help without any conditions, without striving for any advantage. Because of us, the Soviet people made considerable sacrifices.

The democratic orders which are to operate under the cease-fire, Najib went on, are based on our traditions and accord with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Their concrete form still remains to be agreed upon. Therefore, we have put off the adoption of the DRA constitution: Let all interested parties put forward their suggestions so that they might be taken into account and enshrined legislatively in the constitution of the new Afghanistan.

We will continue our policy whatever the conditions. But, naturally, if the cease-fire is responded to with combat actions from the opposing side, we will have to respond to them with the whole might of our armed forces.

The Afghan leader commanded on the negative decisions of the conference of leaders of the Afghan counterrevolution, which was held in Peshawar on the subject of the DRA's reconciliation proposal. Their position is shortsighted and dictated by total indifference to the destiny of the Afghan people.

We support the peace-loving foreign policy endeavors of the USSR, Najib went on to state, and the new political thinking. The philosophy of peace and compromises is the main road of mankind's development. Most of the world's countries support it. [paragraph continues]

The Nonaligned Movement's forum in Harare gave unequivocal confirmation of this. A policy of national reconciliation is the way out of deadlock for many of the existing regional conflicts.

The USSR and the DRA are united in their views on the question of a settlement concerning Afghanistan. My conversations with M.S. Gorbachev demonstrated that our views fully coincided on all points. We set out views on the course of national reconciliation and met with complete comprehension and support. In our talks with M.S. Gorbachev in Moscow, and with E.A. Shevardnadze and A.F. Dobrynin in Kabul, we were once more convinced that our Soviet friends fervently desire peace, happiness, and prosperity for our people. They are prepared to provide us with any help and support that is necessary in the matter of national reconciliation.

If the war forced upon us continues, despite all the efforts to bring it to an end, the USSR will not leave us in difficulty. The Soviet leadership has stated this on more than one occasion. We, however, are optimists. We believe the war will cease.

Speaking about the relations between the DRA and the PRC, Najib noted: China is a big country, with which we have traditionally friendly and mutually advantageous relations. Our people warmly welcomed the great Chinese revolution. It exerted influence upon the growth of democratic trends in Afghanistan. At present, we are striving in all possible ways for the development of goodneighbourly relations with socialist China. Concrete steps of this kind are being undertaken via all channels, particularly diplomatic channels.

Being an Islamic country, Afghanistan, he went on, is interested in the broadest possible development of relations with all Islamic states. As for the role of the Islamic summit conference, which opens at the end of January, its contribution toward a settlement concerning Afghanistan could be considerable. We have expressed this interest in our special message addressed to the conference organizers.

Concerning the U.S. response to the Afghan Government initiatives aimed at national reconciliation, Najib said that this response has so far been negative. The U.S. attitude toward our country has not changed for the better. There exist facts which show that imperialist circles have perceived with dissatisfaction the ideas of reconciliation, and also that they have already been attempting to wreck the process which is commencing. It is understandable: The ruling U.S. bosses are interested in preserving Afghanistan as a continuously bleeding wound of the planet.

U.S. AIMS TO 'THWART' DRA POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

LD161330 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 16 Jan 87

["Who Is Against Cease-fire in Afghanistan?" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- TASS news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

So, an event of tremendous importance has taken place in much-suffering Afghanistan after eight years of bloodshed -- fire has been halted there by the decision of the people's government which has taken a course toward national reconciliation. Widely discussing and commenting on this step of the Afghan leadership, prominent politicians and public figures in different countries and mass media point out that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is thus convincingly demonstrating its firm will to peace. It is stressed that new opportunities have been created now for an early political settlement of the situation around the DRA on the basis of discontinuation and guaranteed non-resumption of interference in the affairs of this independent, non-aligned country.

In Afghanistan, the peace moves of the DRA Government and the PDPA have drawn broad public support. Meetings held throughout the country and attended by people from different segments of the population voice support for the realistic policy of the people's government. Reports are coming in that many refugees staying at camps in the territories of Pakistan and Iran support the cease-fire and want to return home as soon as possible. In Kabul, it is pointed out that the DRA authorities are ready to give them every assistance in fulfilling these wishes.

Washington has also responded to Kabul's positive step -- though in a special, Washingtonian manner. According to a State Department statement, Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, is to be sent urgently to Pakistan. Why? For what purpose? In order to meet with the leaders of counterrevolutionary groupings and to "coordinate" an answer to Kabul's call for reconciliation and a possible political settlement of the situation.

If this mission were in the interests of settlement, it would hardly arouse any objections. But it is no secret what Washington means -- at least what it has meant until now -- by "coordination" of actions of the anti-Afghan forces.

It was precisely the ruling circles of the United States which; together with some of their NATO allies and regional reactionaries, unleashed an undeclared war against the sovereign DRA. And it was precisely the U.S. special services that began a "flow-line" training of mercenary anti-Afghan gangs in the territory of Pakistan and supplied them with more than $1 billion worth of arms, ammunition, and military equipment since 1979. All indications are that Mr. Armacost's present trip was by no means planned to take advantage of the realistic prospects of cease-fire created by the efforts of the DRA. He seems to have an opposite aim: to prevent a cease-fire, block any sensible positive moves on the part of Pakistan, and thwart opportunities for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

This, properly speaking, was unambiguously admitted by a White House official spokesman who declared for all to hear, at the very hour when the armed forces of sovereign Afghanistan ceased armed actions, that Kabul's proposal for national reconciliation and cease-fire had, allegedly, no substance to it. Such provocative and essentially instigating statements coming from Washington are obviously meant to discredit the peaceable and constructive position of the Afghan leadership and misinform the public. But they achieve quite an opposite result. By its statements, the White House shows once again that it intends to stick to its anti-Afghan destructive line which fully fits into the U.S. Administration's policy of neoglobalism and state terrorism, and that the United States is the main party to be blamed for the fact that no just settlement of the situation around Afghanistan has yet been achieved.

U.S. 'STRIVING TO WRECK' DRA SETTLEMENT

LD192105 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; commentary by political observer Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] The world is awaiting reports from Afghanistan with eager attention. For the fifth day the Afghan Army has been strictly observing the cease-fire order. Many armed rebels have already responded to Kabul's appeal for national reconciliation. They are throwing away their weapons and going over to the side of the people's power. The first groups of Afghan refugees, deceived by the counterrevolution, have already started returning to their homeland from Pakistan and Iran.

Kabul has also made an offer to the leaders of the major bandit groups to stop the bloodshed, join the National Front, and take up political activity legally, and join their armed units in the Afghan Army.

It would seem that for the first time in the many years of war the way is open to a nationwide dialogue and to the rallying of all political forces of Afghanistan on a patriotic basis. How have the leaders of the bandit groups, which with the support of the United States are waging an undeclared war against their own people, responded to this appeal? Evidently, Washington's neoglobal ambitions in this region and the mercenary interests of the Afghan counterrevolution are getting the upper hand. The leaders of the bandits, such as Hikmatyar and Rabbani, who maintain close links with the U.S. Administration, have stated that they refuse to cease fire and will continue the struggle against government forces on all fronts.

The first signals have appeared that, in certain regions of Afghanistan, the rebels are violating the truce and opening fire. It is as yet difficult to judge, Comrade Najib said at his press conference in Kabul, what this is -- lack of knowledge, provocation, or premeditation. It is clear that the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolution would not dare throw down a challenge to their own people without the approval of the White House.

For many years American politicos have been shouting from every rooftop of the world about the need to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which went to Afghanistan's aid in difficult times. But now, when a prospect has opened up of establishing peace in this country and of Soviet troops quickly returning home, the United States and its hirelings are striving to wreck the political settlement around Afghanistan. In the opinion of Western observers, this is not part of Washington's strategic calculations. This is why Kabul's initiative, actively supported by Moscow, is called a propaganda gesture across the ocean, where they state that the United States will, as before, extend financial and military aid to the bandits.

A new round of the Afghan-Pakistani talks on the issue of a political settlement, which is being held under the aegis of the UN undersecretary general, is to begin in Geneva in February. The cease-fire in Afghanistan is intended to speed up the progress of these talks and foster their speediest completion. But this, as is evident, is precisely what Washington does not want.

Richard Nixon said that Afghanistan should be left as a museum of the Middle Ages, and the current Washington administration intends to preserve it as a center of trouble on the southern borders of the Soviet Union. Soviet people sincerely desire that the guns should forever fall silent in the neighboring, friendly country. Peace in Afghanistan will also bring closer the return of our internationalist servicemen to their homeland.

DRA PEACE COMMISSION OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

PM141156 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 87 p 9

[APN correspondent Boris Gan report under the rubric "Kabul Calling!" "Silence Greeted by Hostility"]

[Text] "The course of national reconciliation is an important decision of the PDPA and the DRA Government that has received truly nationwide support," Doctor Mohammad Hasan Sharq, member of the presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation, said in an interview with our correspondent in Kabul.

His name is well known in Afghanistan, especially to people of the older generation. A military physician by education, M.H. Sharq was one of the closest aides to Mohammad Daoud, who was for many years prime minister under the monarchy. From 1953 through 1963 he headed the prime minister's personal office. After the overthrow of the monarchy in 1973, Dr Sharq became deputy premier. M. Daoud became president and prime minister of Afghanistan after that coup. In 1976 M.H. Sharq was appointed Afghan ambassador to Japan.

"It was there that I heard the news that the April Revolution had taken place in Kabul," Dr Sharq recalls. "Of course, I need not have returned to Afghanistan; that is what many Afghans who were abroad at that time did. But I have always been, and still am, a patriot, so I decided to return to Kabul, although I knew I could have difficulties with the new authorities. That is indeed what happened. After my return home from Tokyo I was arrested, but after a time I was released. Under H. Amin, who seized power after the assassination of M. Taraki, I was kept under house arrest for a long time. My misadventures ended after the overthrow of the Amin regime. I was appointed ambassador to India. I recently returned to Kabul and was given a post at the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

"I have never been either a revolutionary or an oppositionist," M.H. Sharq goes on. "But I always considered it my duty to serve the motherland, so I agreed immediately when I was asked to join the extraordinary commission on national reconciliation."

[Gan] "How do you feel about the fact that the ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary groupings in Pakistan and Iran have refused to join in the process of national reconciliation and observe the cease-fire which comes into force on 15 January 1987?"

"There is nothing unexpected about their decision. These people, many of whom I knew personally, have always been guided in their activity solely by selfish, self-interested goals; they were in opposition to the Daoud regime, and they greeted the revolution in Afghanistan with hostility too. For them, an end to the fratricidal war and foreign interference in our internal affairs means the loss of the millions of dollars which they receive from the United States and other Western countries which finance and direct the undeclared war against the DRA. For them, the people's interests never meant anything, although they try to represent themselves as 'true' representatives of the Afghan people. But the fact that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Burhaniddin Rabbani, and their ilk immediately rejected the proposal by the DRA Revolutionary Council for a cease-fire and national reconciliation, without even considering it, speaks for itself. These people cannot be regarded as political figures. No serious politician would ever reject a proposal from the opposing side without studying it beforehand. Properly speaking, nobody in Afghanistan regards them as political figures. It is Washington which has turned them into 'politicians,' because it has an interest in maintaining the seat of tension in Southwest Asia.

"I am convinced that the Afghans who have associated themselves with the counterrevolution will turn away from them."

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN HOPE TO RETURN HOME

LD172017 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] New York January 17 TASS -- Many Afghans, who were deceived by the enemies of their people and who found themselves in refugee camps in Pakistani territory, have regarded with satisfaction and hope the Afghan Government's latest steps towards national reconciliation.

At the same time Kabul's peace initiative brought about confusion in the camp of Afghan counter-revolutionaries and their patrons.

This is evidenced, in particular, by a dispatch by an ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent from Peshawar. He reports that crowds of Afghans are lively discussing the latest news from Afghanistan in the streets and open-air markets of the Pakistani city of Peshawar these days.

Preparing to return home, Afghans change Pakistani rupees for Afghanis, in view of which the exchange rate of the Afghani bounced up by 30 percent over recent days. The Afghans also sell bulky items such as furniture that cannot easily be transported.

Alarmed by the prospect of a mass exodus of Afghans from counter-revolutionary groupings, the counter-revolutionary leaders threaten with reprisal everyone who will respond to Kabul's call and will agree to reconciliation.

Washington, in order to cheer up and take in hand its charges, among whom discord and vacillation has begun, has urgently sent U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost to Pakistan.

It was obviously under Washington's pressure that the leaders of counter-revolutionary groupings, which are being torn asunder by internal contradictions, are in every way trying to show the semblance of unity in their ranks.

They even announced today that they intended [words indistinct] preparation for the formation of an emigre government of their own, the so-called provisional government.

But now that their forces began to scatter, this undertaking looks not only unrealistic but simply laughable, too.

AFGHAN REBELS MEET TO DISCUSS DRA CEASE-FIRE

LD170936 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Today is the 3d day of the cessation of military operations by the Afghan Army. At the same time, measures are being taken to ensure readiness in the event of provocations from some armed groups of bandits.

According to reports from Kabul, some of these groups have stopped firing. However, there are also formations, having close links with the U.S. CIA, which seem determined to oppose the establishment of peace within the country. Today, the ringleaders of several such formations will be meeting in the town of Peshawar, Pakistan, where they will try to decide how to respond to the Afghan Government's cease-fire proposal. According to UPI reports, in the United States there are also influential circles that intend to secure the extension of the undeclared war against the Afghan people.

ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DRA

LD171616 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2255 GMT 16 Jan 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the sphere of irrigation, agriculture, transportation, power engineering, and house construction was signed in Moscow today. The agreement was signed on the Soviet side by Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and on the Afghan side by Habib Mangal, Afghan ambassador to the USSR.

Comrade Katushev and Habib Mangal engaged in a conversation on issues relating to the further development of Soviet-Afghan economic and technical cooperation.

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S KOVALEV ARRIVES IN PAKISTAN

Airport Greeting

LD171518 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad, 17 Jan (TASS) -- A.G. Kovalev, USSR first deputy foreign minister, arrived here today at the invitation of Pakistan. At the airport he was welcomed by Abdus Sattar, Pakistan's foreign secretary [title as received], and other officials.

Received by Ziaul Haq

LD191957 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1925 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad, 19 Jan (TASS) -- A.G. Kovalev, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is in Islamabad, was received today by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq. The conversation was of a businesslike nature. The same day the Pakistani president gave a dinner in honor of the Soviet representative.

'Businesslike' Talks Held

LD191713 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad January 19 TASS -- Soviet-Pakistani consultations on bilateral relations, especially in the political field, and on some international issues are taking place here.

The consultations, conducted in an atmosphere of frankness and a desire for mutual understanding, are being conducted by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev, Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, and Yuriy Alekseyev, chief of the Near East Countries' Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and by Pakistan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar and senior officials of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

Today Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, received Anatoliy Kovalev. The sides discussed in a businesslike and positive manner important aspects of Soviet-Pakistani relations and the development of the situation in the region and in international affairs as a whole.

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL ARRIVES 18 JAN

LD181438 Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS -- India's Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh today arrived in Moscow for a working visit. He is accompanied by secretary of India's prime minister G.K. Arora.

Converses With Dobrynin

LD182140 Moscow TASS in English 2105 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS -- Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), had a conversation with Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs of the Republic of India, on Sunday [18 January]. Mr Singh is in Moscow on a brief working visit.

During the conversation which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the two sides discussed matters of Soviet-Indian relations and expressed a mutual desire further to deepen and broaden them as well as to develop the two countries' cooperation in the international arena in the interests of the peoples of the Soviet Union and India and for the benefit of peace throughout the world.

Some problems of the present-day international situation including the state of affairs in Asia and in the Indian Ocean area, were considered.

It was pointed out with satisfaction that the official friendly visit to India by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in November 1986, his meetings and conversations with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had given a new impulse to all-round development of relations between the USSR and India and had become an important contribution to the fight for peace and peoples' security.

Received by Shevardnadze

LD191309 Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received K. Natwar Singh, India's minister of state for external affairs, who had arrived on a brief working visit in Moscow.

Eduard Shevardnadze handed K. Natwar Singh a message from Mikhail Gorbachev to the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania in view of the declaration adopted by them on the occasion of the outgoing year of 1986.

K. Natwar Singh said that Mikhail Gorbachev's message would be immediately relayed to Rajiv Gandhi and the other addressees. Speaking highly of the message, K. Natwar Singh stressed the coincidence of the approaches of the Soviet Union and the six countries to the basic issues of the curbing of the arms race and called for cooperation among all states, big and small, in safeguarding peace and the security of the peoples.

The sides exchanged views of Soviet-Indian relations and a number of outstanding international issues.

They expressed mutual satisfaction with the high level and dynamic growth of cooperation between the USSR and India on the basis of the 1971 treaty.

Eduard Shevardnadze and K. Natwar Singh stressed that Mikhail Gorbachev's official visit of friendship to India had raised that cooperation to a qualitatively new level, highlighted the unique character of relations of friendship between the two world powers with different social systems, and broadened Soviet-Indian joint actions in tackling the key problems of our time.

The sides noted specifically the importance of the Delhi declaration, signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi, on the principles of a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world as a code of conduct for states in the nuclear-space age. The ministers reaffirmed the resolve of their two countries to work jointly to strengthen the principles of the declaration as inviolable norms of intercourse among states.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed the positive contribution of India, the other participants in the initiative of six countries from four continents, and also the Nonaligned Movement to the overall efforts toward safeguarding peace and security in the world.

The Indian side reiterated its high appreciation of the Soviet foreign policy initiatives in connection with the anniversary of the historic Soviet programme for the stage-by-stage abolition of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

In discussing the situation in Asia, the sides stressed that there were both a need and realistic opportunities for a drastic improvement in the situation on the continent. Both the USSR and India are making efforts to settle conflicts and remove the acuteness of armed confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The sides deplored the attempts to build up foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean, called for dismantling of the existing military bases, for the prevention of the establishment of new ones, and for the convocation of an international conference on the Indian Ocean not later than 1988.

In exchanging views, the sides touched upon a political settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan. They noted that the course of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan leadership was providing effective domestic preconditions for such a settlement and offering all the interested countries an opportunity to contribute to that process and, accordingly, to the establishment of peace in the region.

The talks between Eduard Shevardnadze and K. Natwar Singh proceeded in a friendly and frank atmosphere, which is intrinsic to Soviet-Indian contacts, and were characterized by total mutual understanding.

PETROVSKIY ADDRESSES NEW DELHI NEWS CONFERENCE

LD161705 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] New Delhi January 16 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito reports:

The statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the programme for ridding the world of the nuclear weapons before the end of the current century and ensuring security for all on the basis of disarmament has proved to be viable and effective. This has been demonstrated by the year after that document was issued on January 15, 1986, a press conference here today was told by Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister. The main distinctive features of that statement, are, perhaps, the indisputable priority of the general human values and interests, the indissoluble blending of the new political thinking mirroring them with the practices of conducting international affairs.

The recent talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Delhi declaration on the principles of a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world signed by them have convincingly shown that the USSR and India are themselves taking actions and are urging others to take actions aimed at eliminating nuclear, chemical and other means of mass destruction and, in general, wars from mankind's life, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said.

It was pointed out at the press conference that being, in common with India, an Asian power, the USSR attaches much significance to ensuring security in Asia, to a quest for new solutions to the whole range of that continent's problems. It substantiates that by the practical steps to unblock the crisis situations on the Asian continent, to form a system of reliable safe peace in Asia, the most important of which have been the proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok.

The USSR believes that it is necessary to work for the resolution of the problems confronting the peoples of Asia and other areas of the world only through peaceful political methods on the basis of the development of cooperation between all states, irrespective of their political and ideological orientation, Petrovskiy said.

Answering questions, he pointed out that the Soviet Union fully supports the efforts by the DRA leadership for ensuring national reconciliation. The USSR deputy foreign minister stressed that the limited contingent of Soviet troops staying in the DRA at the request of that country's government will be returned home as soon as an end was put to interference in Afghanistan's home affairs.

DOBRYNIN LEAVES 19 DEC FOR BERLIN WORKING VISIT

LD191051 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1022 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS) -- On an invitation from the SED Central Committee A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has left Moscow for Berlin today on a working visit.

Seen Off by Officials

LD191308 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Dobrynin leaves for Berlin -- At the airport he was seen off by Comrade Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, members of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrades Zagladin and Korniyenko, and officials from the CPSU Central Committee. Koenig, GDR ambassador in the USSR, was among the group.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS GROMYKO ADDRESS TO GDR ENVOY

PM200953 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report" "GDR Ambassador Has Presented Credentials"]

[Text] On 16 January in the Kremlin A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received Gerd Koenig, GDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who presented his credentials. The ambassador was accompanied by embassy diplomatic staffers.

Presenting his credentials, G. Koenig said:

I am very pleased to have come to Moscow as GDR ambassador. You have noticed that I am moved, and not only because the presentation of credentials is a solemn moment in an ambassador's work. For me this also has special meaning because 33 years ago I first came to the Soviet Union. I received my education here at that time.

When I passed through the Kremlin gates today, I thought about how 33 years ago I did not of course even dream I would be GDR ambassador in the capital of your state, in the heart of the socialist world. But that is what has happened, and I am very glad. I know that my task is not only honorable but also very binding.

I want to assure you, Comrade President, that I will do everything in my power to strengthen the fraternal relations between our parties, states, and peoples, and that the GDR Embassy collective will work in the same spirit. I am sure that in the USSR I shall always find support in fulfilling this task.

Addressing the new GDR ambassador, A.A. Gromyko said:

You have found good and precise words which accord with the spirit and content of relations between our states and parties.

Indeed, relations between our countries are rich. Probably neither you nor we can say that, despite the wealth of these relations, they have already reached their limit. In general, the term "limit" should be used with caution in politics. The good can always be turned into something even better.

I think that it would be correct to say that relations between our countries are fraternal in the full sense of the word. Here is just one figure -- the sum of the trade turnover between our countries for 1986 is about R15 billion. Does this figure not say a lot? But I think that it would be right if we were to find an opportunity in the future to augment even this figure. Both sides understand the importance of this task.

Other spheres of bilateral relations are also of enormous importance. We know of the GDR's potential in science and technology. It is considerable. You know our potential. The prospects for our cultural ties are also great.

International politics is another sphere of our cooperation. The Soviet Union's line in international politics is a principled line. It is also the line of our common friends in the Warsaw Pact. We are all seeking together to do everything possible to prevent nuclear war and to preserve and strengthen peace.

If we take the decisions of the Warsaw Pact members' Political Consultative Committee, they say a lot. Above all they say that the socialist countries choose the keenest, most urgent questions for examination at Political Consultative Committee sessions in order to focus the attention of peoples, governments, and public opinion on them. Our countries will continue to act in the same way.

In questions of war and peace we are opposed by influential forces. Our side has never underestimated these forces' actions. That is why it is a self-evident conclusion that we must redouble our energy in the struggle for peace and the prevention of nuclear war. And it is in this direction that we are acting.

If we look at the situation today, we must also act in this way in Geneva, where a new round of talks is beginning. We will continue persistently to steer the course steered in Geneva and Reykjavik where summit meetings between the Soviet Union and the United States have been held.

We value all the initiatives put forward by the GDR. You will always feel our fellowship in defending these initiatives.

The Soviet Union advocates regular contacts in the future between M.S. Gorbachev and Erich Honecker. These contacts provide powerful new impetuses to the development of relations between our countries in all spheres.

You are beginning your activity as ambassador at a time when events of historical importance are taking place in the Soviet Union. The course defined by the 27th CPSU Congress toward the restructuring and acceleration of socioeconomic development is being consistently implemented.

We are concerned to create conditions under which each person feels himself to be the master of the country and works creatively, in a communist manner. In this light great importance attaches to steps to improve socialist democracy and to enhance the role of the soviets as organs of power.

In brief, if we reduce all our tasks to a common denominator, it may be said that our party and our people want to make full use of the enormous potential we have in the socialist system itself.

In conclusion I want to say that you will find you have our full support for all the efforts which you, as the representative of the GDR and of your party, make to intensify relations between our countries.

I wish you great successes in your important and responsible work.

The presentation of credentials was attended by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy foreign minister; V.G. Vysotin, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium International Relations Department; V.I. Chernyshev, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; and other officials.

After the presentation of credentials a friendly talk took place between A.A. Gromyko and G. Koenig in which V.P. Loginov and Siegfried Koerner, extraordinary envoy and plenipotentiary minister of the GDR Embassy in the USSR, took part.

POLISH MINISTER, DELEGATION VISIT LITHUANIA

AU131525 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 9 Jan 87 p 7

[Wieslaw S. Debski report: "The Expansion of Cultural Cooperation Between Poland and Lithuania"]

[Text] At the end of its USSR visit, a delegation from the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art headed by Minister Aleksander Krawczuk visited Vilnius, the capital of the Lithuanian SSR. The Polish guests acquainted themselves with the achievements of Socialist Lithuania, the cultural life of its capital, and the reconstruction of old artifacts.

During a meeting with Longinas Sepetis, Central Committee secretary of the Communist Party of Lithuania; Deputy Premier Aleksandrus Cesnavicius; and Ionas Belinis, minister of culture, there was talk about the achievements of this part of the USSR and the possibility of cultural cooperation between Poland and Lithuania. Last year's visit to Vilnius by Wojciech Jaruzelski, which served to expand our bilateral relations, was warmly remembered.

The Lithuanians have devoted a great deal of attention to the reconstruction of artifacts. Examples of this work were shown to Minister Krawczuk, who visited the old Arsenal, among other places. Reconstruction has been performed in such a way as to show visitors fragments of walls from the 9th, 14th, and 16th centuries.

The Polish delegation also visited the beautifully restored University of Vilnius, one of the oldest educational institutions in the USSR. Piotr Skarga, Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Slowacki, Joachim Lelewel [Polish historical and literary figures] and Taras Shevchenko attended it.

A. Krawczuk told Polish journalists that the first visit to Lithuania by a Polish minister of culture and art had been very useful and had taken place in a warm and sincere climate. It will have the effect of expanding cultural exchange between our country and Lithuania.

UK MINISTER RENTON HOLDS MOSCOW NEWS CONFERENCE

LD162012 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- "I have had three extremely useful and interesting days of talks in Moscow," Timothy Renton, minister of state, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Great Britain, now on a visit in the Soviet Union, said today. He held a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the British Embassy in Moscow. Timothy Renton said the aim of his visit was to discuss East-West relations, arms control, problems of bilateral relations between the USSR and Great Britain, as well as questions connected with the future visit by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the USSR.

"I was glad to see by myself something of the changes going in the life of the Soviet Union," the minister of state said. He said there were serious talks on questions of arms control in the post-Reykjavik period and on problems related to talks on space and nuclear arms that just resumed in Geneva. "We didn't of course agree on everything. But I think that we are determined to work together to bridge the gaps," Timothy Renton said.

Answering a question, the minister of state said that Great Britain is striving to play an active role in the improvement of East-West relations. This is one of the reasons why British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe is visiting European socialist countries. I believe he is the first British minister to visit all socialist countries in Europe, Timothy Renton said.

The striving of the sides for the intensification of cultural cooperation between Great Britain and the USSR was noted at the press conference.

AFP CITES RENTON ON SDI, JEWISH EMIGRATION

AU162035 Paris AFP in English 2033 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (AFP) -- British Junior Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton said here Friday that Moscow was ready to talk about the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) to work out a "meaningful compromise".

Mr. Renton this week met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Anatoliy Dobrynin, the Central Committee secretary responsible for international affairs.

He said Friday: -- "I was struck by the wish of the Soviets to arrive at a solution of the problem (of SDI)."

Chances of agreement at the superpower summit in Reykjavik in October foundered on the vexed questions of SDI, the U.S. space-based anti-missile defence shield.

Mr. Renton also said he had "referred to the very low level of Jewish emigration (from the Soviet Union)".

He said Yuriy Kashlev, the Foreign Ministry's head of humanitarian and cultural affairs, had told him he "expected the new legislation (which came into force on January 1) to lead to a substantial increase in the number of exit visas".

Mr. Renton also discussed preparations for a visit by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in early spring.

KOHL SCORED FOR REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GDR

PM161529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jan 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Words, Just Words..."]

[Text] Bonn, 14 Jan -- Addressing a news conference here, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl summed up some of the results of his government's activity on the eve of the forthcoming 25 January elections to the Bundestag, emphasizing foreign policy problems. He did his utmost to extol his cabinet's course in international affairs, calling it "clear, consistent, and predictable."

The chancellor said quite a lot about Bonn's desire for dialogue between East and West and about the need for real steps in the disarmament and arms control sphere after the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik. At the same time, he failed to mention the fact that in the last 4 years the right-wing, conservative FRG Government has not offered any constructive proposals on disarmament, let alone make a specific contribution to this process. It is also indicative that the chancellor has in fact evaded giving an answer to the question of how he regards the large-scale disarmament program put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his 15 January 1986 statement, which envisages the total elimination of all nuclear weapons in the world by 2000.

The head of the FRG Government said that relations with the Soviet Union "play a key role" in East-West dialogue. In this connection he stated Bonn's adherence to the "Eastern Treaties" concluded between the FRG and the USSR and other socialist states. At the same time, the Chancellor once again endeavored to speak on behalf of "all Germans," calling the citizens of the sovereign, socialist GDR "our fellow-countrymen."

Yet again, H. Kohl did not miss his chance to strike the pose of patron of human rights -- not of human rights in his own country, the FRG, where, according to official figures, more than 2 million people are deprived of the right to work, for example, but of human rights in other countries. He once again repeated the story of the mythical "political prisoners" in the GDR, "forgetting" in this respect about the real trampling on human rights both in the West and in states with reactionary dictatorial regimes with which Bonn maintains friendly relations.

KOMSOMOL HEAD ATTENDS AMSTERDAM YOUTH CONFERENCE

LD161331 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1503 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] The Hague, 16 Jan (TASS) -- Assisting the process of detente and mutual understanding between the youth of East and West is the main aim of an international conference which opened today in a suburb of Amsterdam. Taking part in this forum, which is being held at the initiative of the World Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth, are 32 youth organizations from socialist and capitalist countries, including a Soviet delegation led by V.A. Aksenov, chairman of the USSR Komsomol youth organization. Over 3 days conference participants will discuss problems connected with the development of economic cooperation; environmental protection; matters connected with employment; and the role of place of young people in establishing stable international economic relations.

SHEVARDNADZE RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY 16 JAN

LD161655 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received the Iraqi Ambassador in the USSR Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal at the latter's request.

In the course of their friendly conversation they exchanged views on some questions of bilateral Soviet-Iraqi relations and also the development of the Iranian-Iraqi armed conflict.

We in the Soviet Union firmly proceed from the need of the speediest ending of the tragic war between Iran and Iraq which exhausts the energies and resources of the peoples of both countries and leads to a dangerous aggravation of tension in the area of the Near and Middle East, the minister stressed. Constructive efforts by the international community, including those taken along the line of the United Nations organisation, could play an important role in helping direct the Iranian-Iraqi conflict into the channel of a political settlement.

SAUDI OIL MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW 19 JAN

LD192252 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2223 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Jan (SPA) -- Hisham Hazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, arrived in Moscow this evening within the framework of his current tour that began with his visit to Cairo and which will include Norway.

Hisham Hazir's visit to these countries is commissioned by the recent OPEC conference to explain the organization's goals aimed at achieving stability of oil prices on the international market.

It is noteworthy that the three countries are not OPEC members.

U.S. OFFICIAL'S MIDEAST TOUR 'TOTAL SETBACK'

LD200948 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Washington January 20 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yuriy Shvets reports:

A regular tour of a number of Middle East countries by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, has been a total setback. He visited Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

According to press reports, the top-ranking emissary of the Washington Administration was accorded a cold and even hostile reception. King Husayn of Jordan said during the talks with Murphy that confidence in the United States fell down to the zero point in the Middle East.

President Husni Mubarak of Egypt said that the United States had totally discredited itself in the eyes of Arab nations. UPI news agency notes that Arab leaders support ever more actively the idea of holding of an international conference on the Middle East involving all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS PDRY 1 YEAR AFTER UPHEAVAL

PM151001 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Shevchenko dispatch: "South Yemen: Life in the Republic"]

[Excerpts] Aden -- Clinging as it does to the side of an ancient volcano and with its quaint outlines, Aden is picturesque. The city center, located in the hollow of an extinct crater, is actually called "Kraytar." It is clearly visible from Mount Shamsun towering over Aden, where I had gone with Muhammad al-Hubayshi, director of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Interior Ministry's Information Section.

Aden is the heart of the republic, its political and economic center. There are oil refineries, fish canning plants, and many other enterprises there. Ships from all over the world dock at its port. Traveling down the city streets you notice signs of the new everywhere: Bridges, hospitals, and schools are being built. There are not many traces of the tragic events of last January which were triggered by an internal political crisis. Only a few houses with shell holes in their walls and with glassless windows like empty eye sockets recall the armed clashes which led to the deaths of thousands of people. An open trial of the individuals accused of unleashing the events of 13 January started recently at the PDRY Supreme Court. There are 142 defendants, 48 of whom will be tried in absentia.

The new PDRY leadership has focused its efforts on normalizing the situation in the country and strengthening the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP]. "We are now concluding a difficult transitional period," Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih, editor in chief of the weekly AL-THAWRAH ("The Revolutionary"), the organ of the YSP Central Committee, said. "The Fifth YSP Central Committee Plenum last September summed up the results of this work and outlined ways of moving forward. There have been definite successes: Party ranks are being restored and the activity of various social organizations is being stepped up. Peasants' and trade union congresses were held recently. All this gratifies us but there are still many difficulties to be overcome."

South Yemen is faced with particularly important tasks in the economic sphere. The country now has to import many items, including fuel, foodstuffs, and industrial goods. The country's enemies both within the country and abroad are striving to exploit its complex economic and financial position. That is why the party and the PDRY Government are taking measures to accelerate the development of the most promising national economic sectors. [passage omitted]

"Building new things is always difficult," Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, PDRY minister of culture and information, told me in conversation. "The main thing is that we can see our weak spots and do not conceal them -- that is the guarantee of our success. Hostile propaganda strives to distort the true state of affairs in the republic and arouse distrust of us among our Arab neighbors. Under these circumstancess the role of the press, which must rebuff enemy intrigues and clearly demonstrate the advantages of our system founded on the principles of social justice, assumes particular importance."

Optimism and people's readiness to jointly overcome difficulties and build a new life are typical of today's South Yemen. This was visible in the way that the people of Aden prepared for the holiday -- the 23d anniversary of the national liberation revolution. A voluntary labor day was held in the city. The inhabitants painted houses, cleaned streets, and tidied yards. When they finished work they did not rush off but discussed current affairs, viewing with satisfaction the results of their labor. And although there are, of course, still many obstacles in the way of the path chosen by the republic, the South Yemeni people will not fail to solve their complex tasks.

ORTEGA VIEWS U.S. POLICY AT NEWS CONFERENCE

LD200936 Moscow TASS in English 0555 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Managua January 20 TASS -- Despite the efforts of the international community to settle the situation in Central America, the U.S. Administration continues conducting the terrorist policy against Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega told a press conference in Managua on Monday. He said that, disregarding the judgement of the U.N. international court in The Hague, Washington banked on a military solution of the Central American question and dispatched gangs of Somozan hirelings to Nicaragua to conduct subversive activities against the republic and to kill Nicaraguan citizens. The trip by the "peace mission" over the countries of the region opens the road to a long-awaited peace and just solution of the Central American crisis. The main aim, now on the agenda, is to prevent escalation of the armed conflict in Central America, said the Nicaraguan president. He expressed readiness to start peace talks with the U.S. Administration in a search for stable peace and security in the region.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CUBAN DELEGATION IN MOSCOW

PM191917 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 15 January, V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-industrial Committee, received Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Cuban ambassador to the USSR.

During the conversation, which was held in a cordial, friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of information on the state of Soviet-Cuban economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, had a conversation 14 January with C.R. Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers.

On the same day, C.R. Rodriguez met with A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Taking part in the conversations were J. Camacho, Cuban ambassador to the USSR, and R. Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister.

Cuban Foreign Policy Assessed

FL161635 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Aleksandr Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to Cuba, has said the current situation of Cuba's foreign policy, headed by our highest leader, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, represents an important factor in the aspirations of the socialist community to achieve peace.

Kapto gave a speech at the ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the promulgation of the Soviet program to free the world from nuclear weapons through the end of the 20th century.

The Soviet diplomat pointed out that his country's peaceful vocation does not signify at any moment a trait of weakness but rather a moral commitment with the new generations.

Rafael Rodriguez Ends Visit

FL161619 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has concluded a working visit to the Soviet Union during which he met with several personalities to discuss economic and financial topics of bilateral interest.

New Wood Processing Agreement

FL170108 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] An intergovernmental agreement for the better use and processing of wood was signed today in Moscow between Cuba and the Soviet Union. The agreement will be in effect during a 10-year period and provides for the creation of an industrial forestry complex in Yarovsk in the Soviet Far East.

The agreement was signed by Mikhail Busygin, minister of timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo and Cuban ambassador to Moscow.

Trade Protocol Signed

FL171536 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Today in Moscow, Cuba and the Soviet Union signed the trade protocol for the current year which would allow mutual trade to exceed R8.5 billion.

Boris Aristov and Ricardo Cabrisas, Soviet and Cuban foreign trade ministers respectively, stressed the satisfactory completion of mutual obligations last year, which ended as one of the best in the history of bilateral trade relations.

The Soviet-Cuban representatives noted the importance of bilateral trade, which, with that document, will allow the Soviet Union to acquire the most modern electronic equipment from our country and to co-obtain [coobtendra] the design, projection [proyeccion], and massive production of color televisions.

Trade with the Soviet Union for the current year shows that Soviet participation will comprise more than 70 percent of Cuba's foreign trade.

CPSU CALLS ON MINISTRY TO IMPROVE SERVICE

LD181316 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a decision on the work by the USSR Ministry of Communications, calling on it to improve telephone and other communication services for the population. The decision points out that the USSR Ministry of Communications has been unsatisfactorily restructuring its work style and methods in accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum of April 1985, and the guidelines of the 27th CPSU Congress.

The level of providing the population with communications services is seriously lagging behind today's requirements, provoking numerous and well-founded complaints from the working people. The pace of development of the telephone communications does not satisfy the growing demands of the population. A great number of families have been waiting a long time for a telephone to be installed; in many hotels, railway stations and airports no long-distance call offices have been provided; and the quality of telephone communications work remains low. There are serious shortcomings in post and telegraph work.

The CPSU Central Committee emphasized that the leadership of the USSR Ministry of Communications has not been conducting purposeful work for accelerating scientific and technical progress, creating modern technical equipment, or improving their use, and has not laid principled claims to the industry to develop and supply new means of communication. Scientific and technical achievements have been implemented at a particularly slow pace in the development of post and telephone communications.

The USSR Ministry of Communications and Comrade Shamshin have been instructed to develop measures guaranteeing the fulfillment of tasks for the accelerated development of telephone communications, increasing 1.4-fold the number of telephones in the 12th 5-Year Plan, and to speed up supplies of the necessary equipment for the mechanization and authorization of letter and parcel sorting to communications offices.

The CPSU Central Committee stressed that a fuller and qualitatively improved satisfaction of Soviet people's needs in communication services, and higher efficiency in this work are of major social importance.

CPSU CC EXAMINES KRASNOYARSK KRAYKOM SHORTCOMINGS

LD171553 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the issue of the work of the Krasnoyarsk Kraykom in improving social and domestic services for the working people The decision that was adopted notes that, as analysis of the development of the economy shows, the social infrastructure of the kray has fallen chronically behind the demands of a rapidly developing national economy. The kray occupies a leading place in the RSFSR for wealth of provision of fixed industrial production assets and for volume of capital construction, but in terms of social and domestic conditions of the working people, it falls considerably behind the average level for the republic.

Under assessment of the role of the human factor, the badly organized lives and services of people and lack of attention to the daily needs and wants of the working people are producing increased emigration of the population and turnover of cadres.

The CPSU Central Committee has drawn the attention of Krasnoyarsk Kraykom and its first secretary, Comrade Fedirko, the kray executive committee and its chairman, Comrade (Plisov), to the serious slips and shortcomings in the leadership of party, local soviet, trade union and economic bodies on the improvement of social and domestic conditions of the working people. The CPSU Central Committee has demanded that the kraykom, the party committees, and the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies, trade union and Komosomol bodies radically change their attitude to the development of the social area, step up control over fulfillment of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on the integrated development of the production capacities of the kray, and implement measures to create appropriate social and domestic conditions for the working people as a decisive factor in the sharp turn-around in improving the efficiency of production and all-round development of the individual.

The CPSU Central Committee decision will be published in the press.

PAPER NOTES NINISTRY OF RAILWAYS CONFERENCE

Minister, Officials Speak

PM161748 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Jan 87 First Edition p 1

[V. Doroshenko report: "The Winter Is Not To Blame. All-Union Telephone Conference: Punctual Operations by the Railroads]

[Text] Moscow -- This telephone conference organized by the Ministry of Railways was distinguished not only by its brevity but also by the special responsibility that could be sensed in every statement, in every question or answer by its participants. In addition to railroad workers, the top leaders of party and economic organs, association and plant directors, and all on whom the uninterrupted movement of freight now depends in order to supply cities and settlements with fuel, raw and other materials, equipment, and foodstuffs, assembled in telephone conference halls in all of the country's republic, kray, and oblast centers. Taking part in conference's work were Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; G.S. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Gosplan: G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; ministers; and senior officials from the party Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers.

Opening the conference, Minister of Railways N.S. Konarev noted that this year's winter, with its severe frost and heavy snowfall, has considerably complicated railway transport operations. More than 20 million metric tons of national economic freight have not been delivered to their destruction since the beginning of January. Power stations and industrial enterprises have experienced a petroleum product delivery shortfall of 1.23 million metric tons. Only 2 of the country's 32 railroads have coped with their freight shipment plans. A particularly great lag has been allowed to accumulate by the collectives of the Donetsk, Sverdlovsk, Northern, and Moscow Railroads.

What is the cause of this failure? Listening to the explanations given to the minister by railroad chiefs and enterprise leaders, you come to the conclusion: No, neither the hard winter, warnings of which were given in advance, nor the extreme conditions are to blame; the blame lies with the lack of foresight, irrresponsibility, and lack of discipline among railroad workers themselves and the consignees of freight. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA has repeatedly written about this. [paragraph continues]

The Ministry of Railways Collegium even held a special session on the results of the newspaper's reports.

But the situation not only failed to improve but, on the contrary, deteriorated. How else can one explain the paradox which developed, for example, on the Sverdlovsk Railroad. In the first 15 days of January it has built up arrears of 1.5 million metric tons of freight to the state. While, as its chief V. Skvortsov reported, there are 11,000 cars in reserve awaiting freight. Meanwhile, many statements were made in a reassuring and cheerful tone, which even the minister was forced to notice. He had already been too casual [slishkom on ne vzyalsya] about the reality which, alas, is still alarming.

Ye.K. Ligachev spoke about this with great clarity and candor in his contribution. He stressed that today's conference is taking place on instructions from CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev. And it has been caused by serious difficulties in the country's economy primarily due to unsatisfactory work by railroad transport. So. Ye.K. Ligachev remarked, we have no grounds for complacency at the moment, for beating the drum.

Long before the cold came the party Central Committee repeatedly drew the attention of local party and soviet bodies to the need for high-quality preparations for work in winter conditions. All republics, krays, and oblasts reported to the Central Committee that they were ready for the winter. But the first frosts showed what these assurances were worth. The old disease was in evidence -- provided you put your report in, all is fine. As a result, because of interruptions in supplies of raw materials and petroleum products and unsatisfactory work by municipal services many enterprises are eating into what they produced in excess of the plan in 1986.

While assigning a special role to railroad transport, Ye.K. Ligachev sharply criticized those who have still failed to recognize the gravity of the situation and have not drawn the proper conclusions. This applies to the Novo-Lipetskiy metallurgical combine and the Taganrog plant, which have failed to ship 142,000 metric tons of products. The port of Vostochnyy too, which has a shortfall in supplies of coal for export. But most of the criticism has been leveled at the State Agro-industrial Committee, which has as many as 15,000 freight cars standing idle every day.

There is another alarming feature. At many enterprises in Arkhangelsk, Voronezh, Sverdlovsk, and Tyumen Oblasts the freight cars are only standing idle because there is simply nothing to load in them. It is the beginning of the month. At the end of the quarter the rush will start, freight cars will be needed. They follow the principle: Empty today, cram-full tomorrow. This is bad. Railroad transport must not be pulled this way and that. The Central Committee, Ye.K. Lighachev stressed, expects local bodies to draw the proper conclusions and take every step to ensure that enterprises operate smoothly.

We cannot work in the old way now. The present situation demands effort, resolute action, and maximum responsibility and efficiency.

The next telephone conference with the same participants will be on 21 January.

Ligachev Speaks

LD162104 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] An all-union telephone conference [soveshchaniye po selektornoy svyazi] devoted to questions about the winter operations of railroad transport and the country's fuel and energy complex was held at the USSR Ministry of Railways in Moscow today. Invited to take part in the conference were first secretaries of the central committees of the communist parties of the union republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the party; chairmen of the Council of Ministers of union and autonomous republics; chairmen of the executive committees of soviets of people's deputies; leaders of transport, industrial, construction, and agricultural enterprises.

Comrade Konarev, USSR minister of railways, reported on the state of affairs on the country's railroads.

The heads of the Donetsk, Sverdlovsk, and Moscow main lines and the leaders of some of the country's major industrial enterprises presented operational reports.

Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the conference. This is what he said, in part:

[Begin recording] [Ligachev] First of all, I would like to emphasize the following: that this telephone conference is being held on the instructions of Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the party Central Committee. And I will say straightaway, that it has been unusual circumstances that have brought it about. Because of the unprecedented severe cold and snowfall, and I would particularly like to say, serious shortcomings at the center and in the provinces in managing the economy, the situation of the country's national economy has become very complicated. The weather conditions have, in their turn, given rise to big pileup of work in a number of leading branches of the national economy, and, first and foremost, railroad transport.

It may be said without exaggeration that a real threat has been created of losing the positions that have been gained through the persistent work of the party and the people in 1986.

The year of 1987, in which the country has been living and working for over 2 weeks already, is, as is known, of particular significance. It is the year of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution; it is the 2d year of the 5-year-plan in which the levers of full socialist financial autonomy and self-financing have begun to take effect at enterprises of a number of industrial ministries and major associations. All this, as you realize, requires new efforts by the party, local Soviet and economic bodies, and all labor collectives, I would say, to solve the tasks facing us more boldly, and in a more enterprising and innovative way.

But I would like to repeat once again, unfortunately, that we have begun the New Year poorly. Nc other appraisal can be made here. To put it figuratively, we've started to eat up what we stocked up for last year. Last year we all accepted and approved of the positive strides made in the work of railroad transport. The transportation plan was overfulfilled by 81 million tonnes. Isn't that so, Nikolay Semenovich [Konarev]?

[Konarev] Yes, 81 million tonnes.

[Ligachev] But now it turns out -- it is probably clear to everyone already -- that transport has not gathered in the necessary reserves, and in January of this year a debt in transportation has arisen, today, as reported here, of about 21 million tonnes. In January, flaws were revealed in the preparation of a number of branches of the country's economy, and of the municipal economy, for work in winter conditions.

I will say frankly that there have been instances of the obsolete method of report-writing [otraportovat] in places where one should be working with trebled efforts. And this concerns, first and foremost, I would say, railroad men, metallurgists, coal workers and machinebuilders.

At the beginning of this year in ferrous metallurgy, the smelting of metal, instead of a growth as envisaged according to the 5-year-plan, compared with December of last year it has been reduced.

The plan for the first 14 days of January has not been fulfilled in all main production points [nomenklatura]. Nearly 600,000 tonnes of finished rolled ferrous metal, comrades, have not been delivered. The coal industry has started operating unsatisfactorily. Coal extraction has been below plan by 2 million tonnes, and half of this falls to the Kuzbass. Here and there some people are trying to explain these failures by snowfalls and frost. Yet, let us take, for example, the petroleum or gas industries, and, I think, the energy industry: They are working successfully, though under fairly difficult conditions, too. Such associations of the coal industry as Vorkutaugol [Vorkuta Coal], Donetskugol [Donetsk Coal], Krasnoarmeyskugol [Krasnoarmeysk Coal], and a number of others are experiencing the same weather conditions, yet, on the whole, they are working well. It means the problem is something else; that is, the ability to deal with difficulties. A complex situation continues with regard to cutting timber and transportation. The enterprises of the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry have stocked over the first 12 days of January 2 million cubic meters less than planned. And now the shortfall is, probably, even greater.

One also has to speak, in particular, of the fact that in a number of places reliable foundations for normal living conditions for the people have not been provided. In some towns accidents in the main power supplies and in power-generating units and disruptions in heat supply took place. You know from television and press reports that the Secretariat of the Central Committee has given a principled evaluation concerning the facts surrounding disruptions in heat supply to the population, and has strictly punished those who were guilty. The Central Committee has characterized the events that have taken place as being the result of gross violations of party and state discipline by individual leaders and their irresponsible attitude to their duties and callous treatment of people. In the opinion of the Central Committee, such cases absolutely cannot be tolerated and are incompatible with the restructuring that is taking place in the country.

Figuratively speaking, what is restructuring? Restructuring means that people are living better; restructuring means that the might of our country is getting stronger. Party committees and soviets of people's deputies are obliged to strictly control the issues of providing proper living conditions for the people, and of the uninterrupted supply of heat and electrical power to the population. Comrades, one simply cannot allow even one single house or apartment in the Soviet Union to be without heating or electrical power.

A special role in overcoming the difficulties that have arisen belong to railroad transport. We have to say, frankly that a difficult situation has arisen today in this field. And this situation, as we all understand, calls for taking special measures, special measures.

Unfortunately, I have to say, with all sincerity, that here and there, both at the center and locally, there are those who do not fully realize the seriousness of the situation in the country. There are even soothing voices to be heard, saying that the winter of 1984-85 was even worse, so don't worry, we'll get it sorted out. But we already know what huge losses the state suffered then. At the same time -- as I have already said, and Nikolay Semenovich spoke about this too -- there are around 21 million tonnes of cargo that the railroad has not carried. Incidentally, it is apparent that in many other places the right conclusions have not been drawn from the lessons of the winter of 1984-85, and the supplementary measures that were planned to enhance the level of technical equipping of transport depots have not been implemented, so that now we are, as they say, reaping the fruits. Just take a look, comrades. In every 24-hour period, there are over 22,000 freight cars stuck with frozen cargo, and a very large number of freight cars carrying coal and fuel and lubricant materials just not being unloaded at all. These are colossal losses, you must realize...

[Konarev, interrupting] A thousand freight cars on the Donetsk railroad. Out of 4,000 empty freight cars 1,000 arrive with loads of 2 or 3 tonnes of cargo.

[Ligachev] I would say there is no other word for this, it is simply criminal, nothing more nor less.

As you will understand, a most important task now for railroad transport is to ensure that trains get moving ahead more quickly. This depends to a large extent on how loading and unloading work is organized. The situation that we have with loading and unloading is simply as bad as it can be [arkhiplokho]. The party Central Committee considers that union republican communist parties' central committees, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms and appropriate local soviet bodies should adopt exhaustive, urgent measures to overcome the transport backlog and ensure the uninterrupted operation by stations and transport depots and regular movement of freight trains.

So how do we now need to organize matters? Above all, I would like to make the following point: In the present tricky situation we cannot operate on ordinary procedures and methods. As you know, railroad transport work, loading and unloading of freight cars, goes on day and night, round-the-clock. An under these conditions, it is important to place management cadres correctly at key points in the work, and to Organize round-the-clock work -- that was not a slip, comrades, I mean round-the-clock -- by ministries, departments, and by party, local soviet, economic, trade union and komsomol bodies locally. And this means that evening and night, Saturday and Sunday, those members of the work force invested with the greatest responsibility and authority should be working. Let me say again: Under the present conditions, these unusual conditions, usual working methods are not possible. It is essential to urgently examine and give all possible help, not to say more help than possible, to transport workers in their struggle against the drifting snow -- to make equipment available for people clearing snow on mainline and spur routes.

Once again, on behalf of the Politburo, we appeal to you to give all possible help to rail transport, to return a normal rhythm and life to the work of what is described as the arterial system of our economy. This is, of course, a forced measure but it is an essential one.

I would like to emphasize the following point: Those people who are today employed in the transport industry are working under complex conditions, and, frankly speaking, sometimes under extreme conditions. Yet, at the same time, they are showing persistence, fortitude, and a deep understanding of their duty to the homeland -- to the country. And we can be proud of it. And it is important to lavish attention on them, to take the trouble to create conditions for a highly productive labor and rest. One has to provide these workers with warm clothing, tools, hot meals and heating, and to organize uninterrupted transport to take them to work and back home again -- and all this has to be done to the full, in spite of everything, using any funds, I repeat, using any funds, those of any department or enterprise. One has to allocate as much transport to this cause as is necessary. Those leaders who start and finish their working day where there is today a breakdown, where there are difficulties, and where people are working -- those leaders are acting correctly.

And a further point: The railroad men are working under hard conditions and incurring heavy losses because of the premature failure of equipment, its high rate of wear, and damage to freight cars.

Comrade [name indistinct] has said how much Moscow and other towns are helping to repair freight cars and container cars. But we know that we have to come back seriously, because some people have forgotten it, to the initiative approved by the Central Committee earlier concerning the organization of repairing freight cars and container cars, and their preparation for loading by enterprises and other branches of the national economy. As the saying goes, the result of this will be mutually beneficial. As to the expenses incurred for repairs, Nikolay Semenovich says that the Ministry of Railways is prepared to pay for it.

[Konarev] Yes, we will pay for this.

[Ligachev] Because under the current conditions of the transfer to financial economy, so to speak, to self-financing, one has to establish relations in this way only. And party committees must take this matter under their control. This is a matter of exceptional effectiveness. Instead of moving those freight cars thousands of kilometers for repair, one can do it all on-site. And the result is great. Each leader must imbue himself with deep party responsility for the acute and important time being experienced by the country. The current situation has to be regarded as a special one, and all work should be organized on this basis. [end recording] [passage omitted]

BLIZZARDS CREATE RAILWAY STATE OF EMERGENCY

LD151029 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Summary] Vladimir Mikhaylenko reports from the central control room of the USSR Ministry of Railways. Virtually a state of emergency was declared last night on a number of railways. Blizzards descended once again on the Ukraine, and there was also a lot of winter trouble on the Baltic, Belorussian, October and some sections of the Moscow railways. Over 50,000 people worked during the night against strong winds to clear the tracks. Troops also helped. Priority is being given to moving trainloads of coal, diesel, fuel, metallurgical raw materials, and fuel oil for power stations.

In the eastern part of the country -- on the Far Eastern, Transbaykal, East Siberian and Virgin Lands Railways, and on BAM -- the transportation of these items is proceeding quite well. The worst affected area of the country is the south-western sector of the European part, where there are the Donbass coalmines, oil refineries and metallurgical enterprises.

TAJIK SSR PLENUM SEVERELY CRITICIZES MINISTRIES

LD172022 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] A report from Dushanbe. An acute issue that is complicated for the republic -- national utilization of labor resources -- was discussed today at a plenum of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee. The report of Comrade Khareyev, chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers, and other speeches noted that a considerable proportion of the population is not engaged in social production. The situation has begun to change during the current 5-year period. New jobs are being created through the development of facilities, through an increase in the amount of housing and cultural services construction and through the opening of light industry and local industry enterprises. The homebased form of labor is being developed. The plenum subjected a number of ministries, departments and local soviets to severe criticism because of inefficient utilization of the labor force.

DUSHANBE MAYOR DISMISSED AFTER HEATING FAILURE

LD200352 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Unfamiliar frosts have arrived in a traditionally warm part of our country. Preparations were made for them. However, the winter caught Dushanbe's communal services napping, a TASS correspondent reports. As far back as December, when the temperature dropped to 15C below zero, there were many complaints: Pipes in heat systems burst, boiler equipment went out of order. The communal services did not manage to cover the gaps in heating systems and pleaded that they were having difficulties, while many houses, schools, kindergartens, and medical institutions were left without heat.

The city's leaders were called sharply to account at a session of the Dushanbe city council. The chairman of the city executive committee, (Sharakh Munov), was released from his post. It was only when, instead of sitting in session, the staff got down to practical work that the situation changed. Industrial enterprises located throughout the territory under the city council came to the aid of the communal services; through common efforts, in a short time they replaced many kilometers of heating pipes, [word indistinct] pumping stations, and boiler houses. The work of the repair and emergency crews is now being coordinated by a unified, self-financing control unit set up at the city executive committee.

PROBLEMS IN NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION HIT

PM091409 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 January 1987 carries on page 2, under the headline "Haste Hampers Innovation" and the rubric "Restructuring: From Worker to Minister," a 2,000-word report from Dzhambul Oblast by special correspondent O. Stefashin. Stefashin details how the reorganization of newspaper subscription and delivery work, which is now effectively the responsibility of the city post office rather than the oblast "SOYUZPECHAT" agency, has caused considerable confusion in Dzhambul Oblast in Kazakhstan because of poor preparation.

Stefashin concludes that "lack of consideration and haste have seriously harmed the innovation. The errors must be rectified immediately."

The following IZVESTIYA Editorial Note is appended to the report:

"The reorganization of local 'SOYUZPECHAT' subdivisions took place last year not only in Kazakhstan's Dzhambul Oblast but also in a number of other republics and oblasts of the country. The Editorial Office is receiving alerts that the less than fully thought-out changes have entailed adverse consequences similar to those reported by our correspondent. We would like to know what the USSR Ministry of Communication thinks about this."

UKRAINE'S SUPREME COURT ADMONISHES JUDGES

AU132147 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 8 Jan 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Plenum of the Ukrainian Supreme Court"]

[Text] A routine plenum of the Ukrainian Supreme Court was held recently. It discussed the question of application by courts of legislation concerning job reinstatement and the role of courts in fostering labor discipline and preventing infringements of labor legislation.

It was emphasized at the plenum that in order to successfully pursue the line, on accelerating the development of society endorsed by the 27th CPSU Congress, it is indispensable to strictly observe legislation in the field of labor relations and production discipline, and to ensure that the labor rights of the workers and employees are protected in a reliable manner. In this respect, the role of courts in examining labor disputes concerning job reinstatement is important. When courts play this role in strict conformity with the law, they help prevent unlawful dismissals, foster order in production, and enhance the guarantees of citizens' constitutional right to work.

By generalizing from court practice, it has been found that, in dismissing workers, individual enterprises in the city of Kiev and in Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Voroshilovgrad, Zaporozhye, and a number of other oblasts infringed the law. These facts continue to occur in the system of the republic's State Agro-Industrial Committee, in construction, consumer services, motor transport, and at general education and special education institutions. At the same time courts do not always make full use of the preventive and educational possibilities of trials involving job reinstatements. Occasionally courts themselves commit errors entailing the revision of court decisions.

The plenum called the attention of the republic's courts to the need to eliminate the shortcomings occurring in the hearing of cases involving job reinstatement, and to the courts' duty, in strict conformity with legislation, both to defend the citizens' right to work and to increase the effectiveness of the measures taken to foster labor discipline and order in production.

Emphasis was put on the need to make fuller use of the preventive and educational possibilities of court trials, particularly in the struggle against truancies, against reporting for duty in a state of intoxication, and against unproductive losses in working time. Courts have been obligated to hold leaders of enterprises, institutions, and organizations liable for unlawful dismissals. Particular attention was called to the need to observe these requirements when a worker is dismissed in connection with his criticism of the shortcomings in the activity of the administration.

The plenum examined the activity of a number of oblast courts in rehearing criminal cases. It was noted that in the work of instances of appeal under individual oblast courts and under the Kiev City Court there were still substantial shortcomings. Occasionally, they leave unchanged sentences passed in violation of criminal proceedings law or after an incomplete or biased investigation in the circumstances of the case. Cases of groundless convictions are not always being revealed. There are also other omissions.

The plenum disclosed the causes of errors and omissions committed by courts of appeal and drew up measures to eliminate them.

In the adopted decision, the plenum called the attention of oblast courts and of the Kiev City Court to the need to increase the role of courts of appeal in ensuring that people's courts hearings of criminal cases strictly comply with the law, that everyone who committed a crime is fairly punished, and that no innocent person is convicted.

Courts of appeal are called upon to check into criminal cases thoroughly, fully, and impartially, and to eliminate all errors occasionally committed by people's courts.

The attention of oblast courts and of the Kiev City Court was also called to the need to react sharply to infringements of the law committed in the course of the investigation of and the court hearing of criminal cases.

The plenum examined the activity of courts in Zhitomir and Zakarpatskaya Oblasts in hearing civil cases. In view of the fact that, to protect state interests and citizens' rights, it is important to correctly resolve civil cases, the attention of Zhitomir and Zakarpatskaya Oblast courts was called to the need to eliminate the serious shortcomings in the application of civil legislation. As a result of these shortcomings, a significant number of court decisions still have to be canceled or changed by higher courts.

In connection with questions arising in judicial practice, the plenum gave courts a number of explanations.

The plenum also examined protests concerning civil and criminal cases. In the decisions adopted in these protests, the plenum oriented courts toward defending by all means the rights and legally guaranteed interests of the citizens and organizations, toward the strictest observance of legality, and toward intensifying the struggle against crime.

IZVESTIYA NOTES KAZAKH WOMEN'S CONGRESS

PM161329 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jan 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Kazakhstan Women's Congress"]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 16 Jan -- There is no sector of the economy or area of social life in Kazakhstan which has not been affected by the involvement of women. More than 2 million women work in material production alone. One woman in three has received high state awards. These facts were cited at the congress of women of Kazakhstan held today. There was a discussion of ways of increasing their labor and social activeness in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress' demands on accelerating Soviet society's socioeconomic development.

The party's course toward renewal presupposes the determined elimination of inertia and indifference and the removal of everything which hinders further progress. Women's councils are called on to make a considerable contribution to achieving a dramatic breakthrough. Having been revived, they are to become an authoritative mass organization, help accelerate and deepen restructuring, and further improve patriotic, ideological-moral, and international education.

The congress delegates drew special attention to ensuring women's broader participation in managing the state's affairs, increasing the work efficiency of enterprises, organizations, and departments, and improving socialist competition. Much must be done to organize a more effective struggle against parasitism, drunkenness, and other negative phenomena and strengthen family, school, and production ties. The role of mothers and women workers is acquiring special significance here.

Mention was made of the need for greater concern for improving working conditions, protecting maternity rights, organizing leisure, and improving the population's medical, consumer, and trade services.

G.V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, participated in the congress' work.

BATALIN ATTENDS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS CONGRESS

PM151055 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Jan 87 First Edition p 2

[TASS report under general heading: "At Congresses and Conferences. Construction Industry Workers"]

[Text] To switch over to complete financial autonomy with the handing over of projects on a "turnkey" basis -- that is the task set by the country's construction industry workers. Ways to solve it are being examined at the 10th Construction and Construction Materials Industry Workers Union Congress. It opened yesterday in Moscow. Yu.P. Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosstroy, and A.G. Melnikov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Construction Section, are taking part in the congress.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL TU CONGRESS HELD IN MOSCOW

Murakhovskiy Attends

LD161712 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] The agro-industrial complex has a special place in the program for accelerating the development of the country's national economy. Measures for further raising the efficiency of agricultural production and improving conditions of work, life, and leisure of workers in the countryside are being discussed by the delegates of the First Congress of the Agro-Industrial Workers Trade Union. The congress opened in Moscow today. Taking part in the work of the congress are Comrade Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; Comrade Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU; leading officials from a number of ministries and departments; and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee.

Charter Adopted

LD191016 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The country's agro-industrial complex has the task of fully supplying the population with a wide range of foodstuffs. There was a thorough discussion at the First Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Trade Union Congress on what must be done in this direction by trade union organizations. The congress, held in Moscow, ended on 18 January.

The Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Trade Union Charter was adopted at the congress.

Taking part in the work of the congress were Comrade Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; Comrade Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; and senior workers in the CPSKU Central Committee.

The governing bodies, an auditing commission, and delegates to the USSR Trade Unions Congress were elected.

MACHINE-BUILDING WORKERS CONGRESS OPENS 16 JAN

LD161640 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Excerpt] We have already told you, comrades, that the trade union congress of workers in motor vehicle, tractor, and agricultural machine-building started work in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Unions in Moscow today. Delegates are discussing urgent problems of restructuring their operations and enhancing the influence of trade union organizations on the solution of socioeconomic tasks. Taking part in the work of the congress is Comrade Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the party Central Committee. [passage omitted]

YELTSIN PRESIDES OVER TRADE, TRANSPORT MEETINGS

LD172026 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] On 16 and 17 January meetings of the leaders of the department of trade and the department of transport took place in Moscow. The working conferences examined the problems that are of particular concern to Muscovites: restructuring work. The conferences were presided over by Comrade Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom. Speeches were made about the work done so far, about specific shortcomings, and about the potential for improving work.

A principled evaluation of the complacency and carefree attitude of individual executives was made and specific responsible persons and terms for coping with tasks were defined. Everybody's attention was drawn to the need to increase their contribution to the common cause in all possible ways. Ways of cooperation with builders, design engineers, medical staff and public catering workers were mapped out too. They also took part in this constructive and impartial conversation whose goal was to take a substantial step forward this year in solving most acute problems.

SOLOVYEV ADDRESSES LENINGRAD TV CONFERENCE

LD172222 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Jan 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The 17th Leningrad Oblast Inter-Union Trade Union Conference was held in the Tauride Palace today. The attention of the participants focused on the problems of restructuring the activities of trade unions in new management conditions, and increasing their role in the acceleration of the economic and social development of labor collectives. The people of Leningrad worked well in the first year of the 12th 5-year plan. The plans for the marketing of output, rates of growth in industrial production and labor productivity were fulfilled ahead of schedule. However, it was noted at the conference that still not all reserves have been put into operation, above all, that means a more precise orientation of socialist competition toward the achievement of final results, and the development of the creative initiative of the masses. Comrade Solovyev spoke at the conference.

RAILWAYS MINISTER AWARDED ORDER OF LENIN

PM191621 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 87 First Edition p 2

["Decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the Award of the Order of Lenin to Comrade N.S. Konarev"]

[Text] It has been resolved to award Comrade Nikolay Semenovich Konarev, USSR minister of railways, the Order of Lenin for his services in developing rail transport and in connection with his 60th birthday.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

T. Mentenshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Kremlin, Moscow.

16 January 1987.

JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON LABOR LAW

PM071550 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 86 Second Edition p 3

[Interview with B.V. Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice, by V. Khalin under the rubric "Citizen, Society, Law": "An Honest Ruble" -- date, place of interview not stated; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet recently adopted a Law on Individual Labor Activity. It comes into force next May, but a number of questions connected with its application are already arising. B.V. Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice, replies to some of them.

[V. Khalin] It is known that normative acts have operated formerly, enabling skilled people to take part in socially useful labor in their free time from their main job. Why and how have these acts been transformed with the passage of time?

[B.V. Kravtsov] Article 17 of the USSR Constitution notes that our country permits individual labor of citizens and members of their families. Corresponding normative acts have operated and continue to operate today. But they do not by any means govern all types of such work. Many do not meet today's needs: They include unjustified bans on a number of goods and services for which the public need is obvious to anyone. Nor have we had an act possessing supreme legal force which defines clearly, on a constitutional basis and in concrete terms, the legal foundations for individual labor activity as one element (naturally, by no means the most important) of the country's economic system. The exception is probably craft and cottage industries. A provision on these has been approved by the USSR Council of Ministers. In other areas, however, half-hearted and largely obsolete documents are in force, adopted in the union republics and also by individual departments.

Take, for instance, paid medical services, coaching, and the teaching of music, foreign languages, and tailoring and sewing. Here "administrative discretion" and unjustified bans are, alas, usual. Does this mean that paid services have disappeared? Of course not. After all, the demand has by no means disappeared. For instance, Item 3 of the provision on citizens' craft and cottage industries designates "private carriage" as prohibited. But owners of cars do carry passengers, because the public transport and cab pool cannot cope. In practice typewriting and bookbinding, for instance, have become widespread. But engaging in them is, to put it mildly, not encouraged. In some union republics bans were imposed on the repair and servicing of private cars, motorcycles, household machines and appliances, and radio and television equipment. Even those who carried out permitted services for moderate payment by their personal labor have often concealed their work, believing, not without reason, that it could lead to ill will among their fellow employees, friends, and neighbors.

[V. Khalin] Social production is the main source of satisfaction of Soviet people's needs. The individual "sector" is only a subsidiary means. But will it not come into conflict with the Law on Unearned Income?

[B.V. Kravtsov] On the contrary, as I have already said, the legal regulation of individual labor activity has now been raised to a fundamentally new level and will take place on a firm basis of legislation, binding throughout the USSR's territory for all organizations, institutions, enterprises, officials, and citizens.

It is not in anyone's interest or to anyone's advantage to do something "under the counter." Under the new law there is to be -- and in the very near future -- an efficient machinery for putting into practice the law's requirements, including aid and assistance to skilled individuals from the state, which Article 5 makes direct provision for. Certain amendments will have to be made to existing economic legislation too.

In a word, extracurricular work is brought within a legal framework, and has nothing in common with unearned income. Among other things, it will help to occupy usefully the leisure time of millions of people, and to take those who are fond of drinking away from their drinking sessions. Moreover the law widens the potential for eradicating unearned income. After all, presupposing an honest attitude to a trade, the law legalizes it, lifts the unnecessary and sometimes unjustified bans, and offers broad opportunities for people to use their professional skills and abilities by honest labor. [paragraph continues]

At the same time the legislation defines very clearly the principles for monitoring individual labor activity on the part of soviets of people's deputies, their financial organs, and internal affairs organs, as well as the responsibility for violating the procedure for "private" practice.

I must observe that violators will still be prosecuted strictly. In Crimean Oblast recently, Citizen X was sentenced to imprisonment and confiscation of property for the manufacture of articles from gold. This "activity" was formerly banned, and the ban is not lifted in the new law.

[V. Khalin] The word "new" keeps cropping up in our conversation. What specific form does this newness take?

[B.V. Kravtsov] First of all, notice the preamble to the law. Here its objectives are indicated precisely -- to ensure a procedure for individual labor which ensures the fuller satisfaction of public needs for goods and services, an increase in the level of citizens' employment in socially useful labor, and the receipt of additional income for this work in line with labor expenditure. The preamble is not in itself a legal norm, but it is extremely important for the correct understanding, interpretation, and application of the whole text, and "illuminates," so to speak, the articles of the law and gives executive organs guidance on how to apply particular articles.

The lists included in the law of the permitted types of craft and cottage industries and services in the spheres of sociocultural and consumer service are new in content. They include the construction of garden huts, the servicing and repair of private cars, the care of citizens incapable of work, boarding house services for tourists, and much more. The lists are detailed. At the same time they are of the nature of examples, inexhaustive or, as the lawyers say, open lists. Other types of work are also permitted provided they are not banned by the legislation of the country and the union republics. But the lists of banned activities are closed lists. Nobody other than a legislator has the right to extend them or "veto" activities which are not in effect contrary to society's interests. That used to happen all the time.

Karachayevo-Cherkess Oblispolkom, for instance, banned the export outside the autonomous republic of knitted woolen goods made by local craftswomen. What was the result? Speculator traders emerged, who made a fat profit. The new law puts an end to such bans. Article 11 states that craft and cottage industry goods may be sold anywhere. Provided, of course, that the established procedure is observed. Moreover the form of taxation imposed is convenient both to the state and to the skilled individuals -- the purchase of a license. Once you have paid up, there is no need to "pester" each other with mutual accounts.

[V. Khalin] Boris Vasilyevich, please explain, if only briefly, the economic side of the matter and the results which can be expected.

[B.V. Kravtsov] Of course, it is difficult to calculate the projected results in rubles beforehand. One thing is beyond doubt: The benefit for society is directly proportionate to the population's level of employment. And that will increase greatly. Judge for yourself. We have more than 55 million pensioners, more than 5 million students, millions of housewives, and a good many citizens not capable of work and disabled people who cannot work at enterprises, but are capable of sewing, knitting, planing wood, and so forth at home. They will have wider opportunities to make what contribution they can to the "coffers" of goods and services. Thus they will help to eliminate shortages in various areas while receiving additional, honestly earned rubles. Thus the advantage is mutual, public and personal.

[V. Khalin] Many items in the law include the stipulation: "provided it is not contrary to public interests." PRAVDA's readers ask how that is to be understood.

[B.V. Kravtsov] We live in a socialist society. The exploitation of other people's labor is completely excluded. That is the first thing. Second, "private" labor is acceptable only when it is to the benefit of all strata of the population. This is the thrust of constitutional provisions and any acts of Soviet legislation, including the Law on Individual Labor Activity. Article 20, for instance, says: The state encourages the development of popular art industries. This attitude is enshrined in the law specifically in society's interests. And here is an example of the opposite. The law names a number of types of individual labor activity which are banned: the production of toxic or narcotic substances, the manufacture and repair of weapons, the keeping of gaming establishments, and so forth. This too is, naturally, in society's interests.

Our way of life excludes actions which go against the interests of the majority of Soviet people or run counter to the principle of social justice. Narrow, selfish aspirations do not and will not find any support. There are plenty of examples of this. I will cite just one. In November Kostroma Oblast Court sentenced a certain A. Fedorov to 10 years' strict-regime imprisonment and confiscation of property; he had gained the confidence of the chairman of the Muskovskiy Khudozhnik, Aist, and Krasnaya Zvezda gardening cooperatives and concluded a labor contract with them for the construction of access roads, a contract which had virtually no foundation in reality. As was to be expected, the rogue pocketed the substantial sums which he had received from these useless chairmen. Leaving aside the moral aspect of the case, I will say that one of the factors that gave the criminal a free hand was the inadequate legal regulation of such a deal.

[V. Khalin] Is not that why spare time has been left before the law comes into force, so that the regulation documents can be brought into line with it?

[B.V. Kravtsov] Yes, for that too. On a careful reading of the new law, it is not hard to see that the text gives rise to the need to elaborate a number of normative acts. I have in mind, in particular, the procedure for granting credit and privileges to individual categories of citizens engaged in individual labor activity. A provision must be adopted on the training of talented people by those who have a high level of skill in the manufacture of rare artistic goods. A procedure will be established for the implementation of certain types of individual labor activity. All this work, as well as that of bringing existing legislation into line with the new law, has already begun, and will be completed in the time remaining before May 1987.

EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL 'PRIVATE ENTERPRISE' CITED

PM131828 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Dec p 4

["Commentary" by Yu.M. Baulin, deputy chief of a USSR Prosecutor's Office Administration, under the rubric "TRUD Consultation": "Stopping the Moneygrubbers"; first two paragraphs are TRUD introduction]

[Text] We are continuing the story about measures to step up the struggle against illegal self-enrichment. One method of obtaining unearned incomed is to engage in private enterprise and act as middleman in commercial operations.

Liability for committing these crimes is the theme of the commentary by Yu.M. Baulin, deputy chief of a USSR Prosecutor's Office Administration.

The foundation of our state's economic system is socialist ownership of the means of production. And no one has the right to use it for personal gain or for other selfish interests. There is a constitutional statute which rules out the possibility of legally setting up any private enterprises. But there have been cases where smart operators have contrived to create "underground firms" under cover of existing organizations, operating in their name and thus concealing their unearned income.

In a 25 June 1976 resolution a USSR Supreme Court plenum pointed out that private enterprise is a criminal offense when it means profit-orientated activity involving goods production, construction, or provision of consumer services while using or operating under cover of state, cooperative, or other forms of public economic organization in order to enjoy the rights, benefits, and advantages granted to socialist enterprises and organizations: Hiring of manpower, acquisition of raw materials, supplies, and equipment, tax and sales concessions, and so forth.

Private enterprise is damaging to the socialist economy and it violates and is prejudicial to the state principles of the organization of national economic planning and management and remuneration of workers and employees. Moreover, it is often accompanied by embezzlement, bribery, speculation, and buying of property that is known to have been obtained by criminal means. For example, a certain S. Kerimov and his associates were given long prison terms by the Baku City Court. Using the "Shikhovo" catering combine depot as a cover, they sold at trade outlets fish, meat, wine and liquor, and other products which they had either stolen themselves or obtained from other thieves.

The following cases might be cited as examples of private enterprise "in its pure form." N. Zhilenko, leader of a photographic circle at the Cultural Center in Angren, Uzbek SSR, traveled around Tashkent Oblast in 1984-85 under the auspices of the organization, taking photographs of children at pioneer camps and charging R2 a time. Criminal action was taken against Zhilenko and he was fined R500, his camera and photographic materials being confiscated.

Swindlers use other public forms of activity as a cover, as well as state and cooperative forms: trade union, spots, cultural enlightenment. For 2 years a bogus organization, headed by Kostin and Kadyrov, operated in Moscow. They used as a cover an order by housing maintenance office No. 5 in Voroshilovskiy Rayon on setting up an "association to work with children." Hundreds of adolescents and their parents, officials of a number of organizations and institutions, and teachers of various specialties were drawn into their area of activity. Parents were charged R8-10 per month for each child attending group or section classes, the money being paid into Kostin's personal accounts at various Moscow savings banks. When hiring teachers, Kostin set their pay according to his own discretion. Criminal action was taken against the criminals and they were sent to prison.

Acting as middleman in commercial operations is a form of private enterprise. The USSR Supreme Court plenum pointed out that it can take the form of acquiring or selling products under cover of a contract of agency between an organization and a private individual, finding a customer for a vendor or a vendor for a customer, obtaining goods for other citizens or organizations, hiring trading premises, helping citizens to obtain goods by selling unredeemed goods checks and coupons, arranging for an exchange of apartments, and so forth.

In the context of the general intensification of the struggle against unearned income, tougher measures were introduced on 1 July 1986 concerning criminal liability for private enterprise or for acting as middleman in commercial operations. Commission of these crimes, stipulated in Article 153 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, can result in punishment in the forum of up to 5 years' imprisonment together with confiscation of property. But if the gain has been particularly large, the punishment is even stiffer -- up to 10 years' imprisonment plus confiscation of property.

Similar changes stipulating greater liability for the aforesaid crimes, have been made to the criminal codes of the other union republics. These measures are intended to eradicate the principles of private production and distribution which are alien to our society.

DISSIDENT WIDOW'S LETTER CLAIMS MARCHENKO KILLED

AU151242 Rome ANSA in English 0927 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, January 14 -- Russian dissident Anatoliy Marchenko did not die a natural death in the Cistopola Prison December 8th but was murdered in jail, according to his widow Larissa Bogoraz in a letter cited in part by the Italian weekly IL SABATO in its latest edition.

She wrote the letter on December 13 and it was subsequently smuggled out of the Soviet Union. In it she wrote that Soviet officials had hidden everything pertaining to the final months of her husband's life.

The prison doctor said that Marchenko died as a result of acute cardio-pulmonary insufficiency but that the neuropathologist at the hospital where he was taken upon arrival her husband could not breathe, speak or even swallow, leading him to believe that Anatoliy died as a result of thrombosis.

It was this contradiction that led Larissa Bogoraz to the conclusion that the dissident "was killed".

Her letter also contains an appeal to world public opinion not to forget the reason for which her husband had undertaken a hunger strike the last four months of his life: to push for an amnesty for all those for "crimes of opinion" in the Soviet Union.

DISSIDENT'S WIFE PERMITTED MEDICAL LEAVE

AU181549 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (AFP) -- Inna Meiman , 53, the wife of a prominent Jewish dissident mathematician, Naum Meiman, left here Sunday for cancer treatment in the United States.

Mr. Meiman, a member of a now-dissolved group that monitored Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accords, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that former U.S. Senator Gary Hart had been instrumental in arranging his wife's exit visa, which is valid for one year.

Mr. Meiman, 75, said the authorities had not permitted him to accompany his wife on the grounds that he held state secrets for research he carried out nearly 30 years ago.

Ambassador Comments

AU181801 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1741 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Bern/Moscow -- The spectacular freeing of Nobel Prize winner Andrey Sakharov will not remain an "exception," in the opinion of the Soviet ambassador to Switzerland, Ivan Ippolitov. At a press conference, the ambassador emphasized the intention of his government to bend with the "new winds," also in the area of human rights. He gave no details.

On board an AUA [Austrian Airlines] plane, the cancer-stricken wife of dissident Naum Meiman, who has been trying to get an exit visa for three years, was allowed to leave the USSR.

GROUP SENTENCED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES

LD141237 Moscow TASS in English 1209 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS -- A. Grigoriyev and his accomplices have been sentenced to prison terms in Kirghizia, a Soviet Central Asian republic, the newspaper SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA reports.

They are guilty, according to the verdict, of having organized a group the activities of which, under the guise of the propagation of religious faith and the performance of religious rites, did harm to human health and induced people to withdraw from social activity. The other charge is the unlawful production, acquisition, storage, trafficking in and consumption of narcotics.

In Leningrad, the newspaper says, Grigoriyev organized several groups of young people to train them in Yoga, parapsychology and religious philosphies in order to educate them in the spirit of contempt for the "mob" and a sense of supremacy and exclusiveness.

Preaching the need for the individual to shake free from the trappings of material existence, claiming that life is illusory and demanding unconditional subordination to himself, he fermented anti-social sentiments. The minds of his "disciples," warped by narcotics, were open to any suggestion, even the wildest ones.

Grigoriyev and his group moved to Krighizia and settled at a mountaineering camp 40 kilometers out of the Kirghiz capital of Frunze, where they eventually were arrested. Narcotics and literature of predominately mystical contents were seized at their camp. Many of the defendents admitted that, as a result of Grigoriyev's preaching, they had lost interest in socially useful work and withdrawn from reality. Many of them have developed nervous disorders, which were growing worse.

PAPER PAYS BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO BURLATSKIY

PM160945 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 6 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by Aleksndr Galkin: "The Paths We Choose to Follow. On F.M. Burlatskiy's 60th Birthday"]

[Text] Knowing Fedor Mikhaylovich Burlatskiy as a person constantly dissatisfied with himself, I expect that as he celebrates his 60th birthday he will use this landmark to gather his reserves for a new spurt forward.

Many of those who see Burlatskiy on their television screens as the moderator of "International Panorama" usually do not suspect that this is no ordinary political observer before them, as the captions say, but a political scientist who has given us examples of concrete, profound analysis of complex political processes. His book "Lenin. The State. Politics," published many years ago, is still a textbook for anyone starting to study the fundamentals of political theory.

If Burlatskiy's scientific services are chiefly known to specialists, his writing on current affairs is familiar to millions of people. What is the secret of his popularity? The secret, it seems to me, lies primarily in the fact that he always writes and speaks to the point. His articles always contain serious ideas, a clear-cut standpoint, and depth of analysis.

In recent years we have also come to know Burlatskiy the playwright. His two best known works -- "Time of Decision" and "Two Views From One Office" -- are a phenomenon in our drama meriting more detailed discussion. In this connection I am speaking of them as an observer -- no ordinary observer, but as one with a professional knowledge of the material under discussion. Taking my seat as spectator, I was fully aware of the social importance of the issues being raised but, at the same time, I was extremely skeptical regarding the possibility of their working dramatically. Today I willingly admit defeat.

I must also mention another feature of Fedor Burlatskiy. It is his civic courage, his desire to voice socially important issues irrespective of whether they sound pleasant or unpleasant to other people's ears.

I will not claim that Burlatskiy's inclination to "speak frankly" has always had a positive effect on his health. But without this inclination, Fedor Burlatskiy probably would not exist as we know him. He will not disappoint us, I am sure, in the future.

LENIN DRAMATIST INTERVIEWED ON FILM SERIES

LD141049 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 13 January 1987 carries unscheduled 6-minute interview by Correspondent (Lidiya Sechinova) with Mikhail Shatrov, author of a series of films entitled "Verses on a Portrait of Vladimir Illich Lenin" produced 20 years ago and now scheduled to be shown on Moscow television.

The first film, Shatrov explains, concerns the dispute over the Brest-Litovsk treaty and Lenin's clash over this with Bukharin, who led the group of left communists. The second deals with the resolution of the crisis following the killing of 1918 of the German ambassador. The third film is set in September 1918, when Lenin returned to work after recoverning from the attempt on his life. This film pays particular attention to Lenin's relations with Gorkiy, "which, as is known, were rather tense at that moment", Shatrov says, and with the first meeting of the two after a gap of almost a year.

It also deals, he says, with "Lenin's thoughts on what constitutes a leader (vozhd, a term subsequently associated with Stalin), what constitutes the authority of the leader and what constitutes attempts to place the leader above the people and the party -- in other words, everything that we call the personality cult, that very broad and, unfortunately, sensitive combination of words that is very dramatic for each one of us."

Shatrov goes on to explain that his whole career really began 20 years agos, with the production of this series of films. He concludes by saying that he sees its importance in showing young people the ideas of October and indicating what has to be done.